

Panama opposition stages strike

PANAMA CITY (R) — A national strike called by Panama's opposition to protest the announcement of elections it claimed it won received mixed support Wednesday as shops opened but many employees failed to show up for work. Employers at shops and offices in Panama City reported absentee rates ranging from nil to 90 per cent. Banks in the capital were open, but at many there were no tellers to attend to customers. The United States has begun an airlift of U.S. military dependents out of Panama and defence officials said Wednesday the deployment of 1,900 protective troops to Panama was to be complete by the end of the day. Latin American diplomats Wednesday agreed on a call to Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega to recognise the results of the elections. His opponents say he lost, diplomats said. The diplomats were considering Noriega's harshly to critics Noriega at a crisis meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) opening in Washington. Members of the group of eight, Latin America's leading democracies, worked on the agreement at a breakfast at the Colombian embassy. Representatives of four other Caribbean and Latin American nations joined them later.

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U.S. threatens UNESCO

PARIS (R) — The United States, which last week blocked a PLO bid to join the World Health Organisation (WHO), threatened Wednesday to stay out of UNESCO for good if the State of Palestine were admitted to the U.N. Cultural agency. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisations John Bolton told UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor: "Admission of the PLO to UNESCO would effectively finish any consideration of a return to the organisation." The United States left UNESCO in 1985 after clashes with former Director General Ahmadou-Mahtar M'bow. Since his election last year, Mayor has been trying to persuade Washington to rejoin and once again contribute its 25 per cent share of UNESCO's budget. Last week the WHO's general assembly in Geneva, heeding a warning from the United States, its leading contributor, decided to shelve consideration of PLO membership until next year. Washington and most Western nations oppose the admission of Palestine to U.N. agencies.

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Moves under way to settle Iraq-Syria rift • ACC leaders to meet after Casablanca summit • Bush exerting efforts King lauds Jordan-Oman relations as exemplary

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has described Jordanian-Omani relations as exemplary and said they serve as a model for other Arab countries.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman "is a brother and a dear friend whom I deeply respect, and this is no doubt the feeling of the Jordanian people towards their Omani brothers," King Hussein said in statements to a press and information delegation accompanying Sultan Qaboos on his current visit to Jordan.

"My talks with the Sultan are aimed at finding the best possible ways that can contribute towards solving the Arab causes and ending disputes that threaten the Arab region," King Hussein said. The King praised efforts by the U.S. administration of President George Bush to settle Middle East disputes and described the leadership of Bush as "effective and efficient."

"I believe and I can say that President Bush and his administration are able to provide effective and efficient efforts to support the peace process in the Middle East," King Hussein said. "The world status has changed a lot. The people began to understand our problem: the Palestinian issue... when the Palestinian position was crystallised last year and after Washington started a direct dialogue with the

Palestinians."

The King said leaders of the new four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) would meet in Egypt in June for a summit postponed from mid-May. "We will meet in Cairo early next month," the King said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted King Hussein as saying the ACC leaders would also meet during the extraordinary Arab League summit due to open in Morocco next week.

In the area of inter-Arab relations, the King said Jordan was pursuing efforts to heal the rift between Iraq and Syria. "The Arab countries are assisting Jordan in this endeavour which, God willing, will attain success," he said.

The King said the Casablanca summit would help bring Arab countries together.

King Hussein said the formation of Arab economic groupings, the convening of the Arab summit this month and the return of Egypt to the summit would contribute towards further improvement in inter-Arab ties and joint action.

The summit will discuss a unified Arab stand in support of the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its drive towards a peaceful settlement. Since the PLO has decided to shoulder the responsibility of leading the Palestinians towards freedom, the Arab World will back this effort with all possible means, King Hussein said.

King Hussein urged Arab states "to set up a united Arab stand in support of the PLO based on its recent attitudes following the positive resolutions endorsed by the Palestine National Council."

The Monarch also called on Arab states to "shoulder their responsibilities to support and back the Palestinians as Jordan did... until Palestinians regain their legitimate rights on their national soil."

On efforts to hold a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference, he said: "Contacts are underway with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and that is based on our contacts and consultations with PLO."

"I believe that there is a consensus for holding such a conference at the suitable time."

On the Lebanese problem, the King urged all "concerned parties to solve the crisis in a brotherly... atmosphere placing the public interest to serve Lebanon and the neighbour of Lebanon (Syria) and the whole Arab Nation."

He called all Arab countries to "reconsider the structure of the Arab League to make it strong

and able to coordinate between major Arab groupings and play its role effectively."

Referring to the recent rioting in some parts of Jordan, King Hussein said those days "formed a dark patch in Jordan's life, but the Jordanian people have now transcended that stage and are mobilising all their efforts to build their country."

Jordan's financial problem arises from the failure on the part of Arab countries to honour their financial commitment to the Kingdom in implementation of the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions, King Hussein added.

The King said Jordanians were determined to go ahead with plans for development and to attain self-sufficiency. Plans are underway to enable the Jordanian people to shoulder the burden in an equitable manner, with greater contributions from the wealthy rather than the needy," he said.

Parliamentary elections, the King said, will be held soon to open the way for the people's participation in shouldering the responsibilities of the country.

King Hussein said that he had proposed the formation of a national charter within the framework of the constitution to help fulfill the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt.

Elections will be held, the King stressed, not as a result of pressure exercised on Jordan but out of a feeling for collective participation in handling issues



Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman Wednesday visit the Al Hussein Military Workshops (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid, Zawawi discuss economic cooperation

Al Hussein, Qaboos tour military sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday accompanied Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman on a tour of military sites in Jordan.

The two leaders visited the Al Hussein Military Workshops, where they were briefed on the facility's activities by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb.

The King and the Sultan also toured the workshop and a display of military equipment used in field, reconnaissance and air defence operations. They also visited a special Royal Guards unit and watched an exercise using live ammunition.

The two leaders were accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the Jordanian mission of honour accompanying Sultan Qaboos as well as the high-level ministerial team accompanying the Omani leader.

The King and Sultan Qaboos also visited the House of Jordan, the new residence of His Majesty

the King. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Sultan Qaboos offered to pay the construction cost of the House of Jordan so that it would suit the international prestige of the King and be a suitable place to receive dignitaries visiting Jordan.

The King and Sultan Qaboos later visited the Royal Command and Staff Academy, where National Medical Institution Director General Daoud Hanania presented a briefing on the Queen Alia Heart Centre.

Earlier, Sharif Zaid met Oman's deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Qais Ibn Abdul Munem Al Zawawi, and discussed economic cooperation.

"They discussed bilateral relations especially in the field of financial and economic cooperation... and ways to improve and strengthen these relations," said an official quoted by the AP. The meeting was part of a



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Wednesday holds talks with Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Qais Ibn Abdul Munem Al Zawawi (Petra photo)

series of economic talks held Tuesday between King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos.

Qaboos, who arrived here from Kuwait said Tuesday: "Oman will never hesitate to support Jordan and will always stand by its side. 'Oman highly values King Hussein's positive role in serving the Arab national cause.' Oman's ambassador to Jordan, Mohammed Ibn Sultan Al Bousaeed, told the AP Tuesday that Oman "fully understands the economic hardships which Jordan is undergoing now."

He said: "The channels are always open between the two leaderships and the Sultanate will never hesitate to shoulder its brotherly task towards Jordan at any time."

Egypt sees summit invitation as normalisation of relations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Egypt is now more in agreement with the rest of the Arab World in terms of political moves and the concept of Arab unity, an Egyptian diplomat said here Wednesday, one day after Egypt received Morocco's invitation to attend the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Casablanca on May 23-24.

The invitation has normalised relations between Egypt and the Arab World, the diplomat said. "The relationship between

Egypt and the Arab countries are now more in agreement in terms of political moves and within the concept of Arab unity," said the diplomat, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Cairo's Middle East News Agency said the invitation came in a telephone call initiated by King Hassan of Morocco, the current chairman of the Arab League and host of the summit.

The King also invited Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid to take part in a meeting by Arab foreign ministers plan-

ned for next week in Casablanca to prepare for the summit, the agency said.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad, emir of Kuwait, will not attend the Casablanca summit, an official statement said Wednesday.

The Kuwaiti delegation will be led by the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, it said.

"At the instructions of the emir... Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah will lead Kuwait's delegation," it noted without giving an explanation.

Qasem, Klibi discuss summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi Wednesday and discussed regional issues in advance of the emergency Arab summit to be held in Morocco.

Qasem reiterated the importance of concerted Arab efforts on the Palestinian issue and the Lebanese conflict, the two main items of the summit's agenda, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Klibi flew to Amman from Damascus, Wednesday morning and immediately went into talks with Qasem.

"The talks focused on... (Arab support for) the Palestinian people and to help them achieve their aspirations for freedom... self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," said an official quoted by the Associated Press.

Klibi left Amman later Wednesday.

Hamadi sentenced to life

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — A West German court Wednesday sentenced Lebanese Mohammed Ali Hamadi to life imprisonment for the 1985 killing of a U.S. navy diver on a hijacked TWA jet.

Judge Heiner Mueckenberger said the verdict after a 10-month trial showed that West Germany's justice system could not be intimidated by kidnapping of Germans in Lebanon.

Gunnmen Tuesday kidnapped two West Germans in South Lebanon in a move linked by security sources to Hamadi's sentencing.

The parents of the slain U.S. serviceman, Robert Stephens, praised the court's handling of the case but said they felt the defendant deserved "punishment more severe than allowable under German law."



Sheikh Hassan Khaled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Thousands of Lebanese, weeping and chanting "God is Great," paid tribute in an unprecedented show of unity Wednesday to their

Lebanese mufti buried after rare show of unity

Sunni Muslim spiritual leader, killed with 21 other people by a powerful car bomb blast.

Scores of civil defence officials, police and civilians carried the coffin of slain Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled shoulder-high through the streets of west Beirut.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, himself a Sunni Muslim, joined Khaled's sons at the head of the mass funeral procession. Syrian soldiers, police and militiamen cordoned off the area.

Crowds gathered on balconies of shell-damaged buildings. Sobbing mourners shouted "Beirut will not die" as the procession passed through the area where the 68-year-old cleric was killed Tuesday. More than 80 others were wounded.

Many threw rice and perfume at the coffin as it passed. Black flags fluttered from most buildings and giant posters of Sheikh Hassan were plastered on walls. "Beirut will not forget you," read one banner.

Sheikh Hassan, Mufti of the 700,000-strong Sunni community since 1966, has repeatedly denounced the violence plaguing Lebanon and called for reconciliation between the warring fac-

tions. His death drew international condemnation and Lebanese of all political persuasions called it a blow to Lebanon.

His was the most powerful voice of Lebanon's Sunni sect, already weakened by the 1987 killing of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a veteran Sunni politician, died in a bomb explosion aboard his military helicopter.

Flags hung at half-mast across the war-hit capital and businesses were shut throughout Lebanon as a week of official mourning began.

Hoss, who heads a civilian cabinet vying for power with Aoun, described Sheikh Khaled as "a symbol of wisdom who stood for reconciliation, unity and peace."

"We know who killed our Mufti. The Mufti knew that the course of moderation he pursued would lead to his death," said Sheikh Mohammad Kenaan, Beirut's Sunni judge in the farewell sermon. He did not identify the suspects, however.

"We shall not deviate from the course he followed," Kenaan vowed and the crowd roared its approval with the chant "God is

Great." After prayers, Khaled's coffin was driven for burial at the shrine of Imam Abdul Rahman Al Ouzai, while the other coffins were taken for burial at martyrs' cemetery.

Khaled's body, wrapped in a white shroud, was taken out of the coffin and lowered into the ground.

Respect for Khaled was reflected in the general strike that gripped the whole of war-divided Lebanon, including Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in the south, police said.

"This is the first total shutdown in Lebanon since the outbreak of the civil war in 1975," said a police spokesman.

Syria and Lebanese militia, in separate statements, blamed Khaled's assassination on Michel Aoun, whose 20,000 mainly Christian troops have been engaged in a fierce shelling duels against Syrian-Lebanese forces since March 8.

Police said gunners Wednesday fired 30 rockets and Howitzer shells into the Christian coastline north of Beirut, violating a week-old ceasefire brokered by the Arab League.

1 killed, 9 injured in clashes; Gaza workers stream back

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — One Palestinian was killed and at least nine others wounded in clashes with Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday, Arab hospital officials said.

Omar Abu Jaber, 41, died of a bullet in the chest in the West Bank town of Jenin.

He was the 480th Palestinian to die in the 17-month-old uprising. Israel radio said he may have been shot by an Israeli civilian. Police officials in Jenin were unavailable to comment, their offices said.

The Gaza Strip's 700,000 residents were confined to their

homes for a third consecutive day as Israeli police continued a sweep of Israeli markets and factories to force all Gaza workers to return home.

Associated Press reporter G.G. Labele, who visited the Erez crossing into Gaza, saw Palestinians herded across and into service taxis by Israeli soldiers, one of whom waved a riot club to hurry them along.

Thousands of Gazans streamed through the checkpoint, predicting Israeli industries could not do without them.

"The first ones to cry will be our employers," said Ali, speaking for a group of Palestinians

waiting for army-ordered taxis to take them home through the curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip.

"When I left this morning, the boss was frantically making telephone calls for workers to replace us," said the resident of Khan Yunis who works in a Tel Aviv area factory.

Meanwhile, Israel's parliament Wednesday endorsed a peace proposal that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said would open the way for Israel to clamp down on the Palestinians.

But many members of his own hardline Likud Party boycotted the vote, including hawkish Trade Minister Ariel Sharon.

Gorbachev urges Sino-Soviet demilitarisation on borders

BEIJING (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called Wednesday for demilitarising the border between China and the Soviet Union, where some 1.6 million troops now face each other across a sometimes hostile frontier.

The Soviet leader, in a speech to Chinese Academics in the Great Hall of the People, urged the 7,000-kilometre zone be turned into a "border of peace."

He also pledged Soviet force reductions elsewhere in Asia in keeping with his policy of trying to reduce world tensions by defusing regional hotspots.

Gorbachev's landmark visit to Beijing was thrown into confusion when more than one million pro-democracy demonstrators spilled into the streets Wednesday, preventing the Soviet leader from touring the Forbidden City and holding a news conference at the Great Hall of the People, both at the centre of the capital. (See page 8).

In a nationally televised interview, Gorbachev said his summit talks normalising relations between Moscow and Beijing went well "despite all the tensions" and that he felt welcome in the city where no Soviet leader had

set foot for three decades. Gorbachev said he did not want to judge protests but would use political methods if similar events happened in Moscow.

And in a flash of anger, he said Western reporters appeared to be trying to compel him to give advice and impose a Soviet approach on China's beleaguered leadership on how to handle the mounting anarchic situation.

"I think we should show respect for the Chinese people," he told a news conference itself postponed for two hours and switched away from the city centre.

Fighting continues in Ethiopia coup bid

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — The government reestablished control of Ethiopia's capital in new fighting Wednesday, but a military coup attempt that already has cost the lives of two dissident generals was continuing in other parts of the war-torn nation.

In Addis itself, it's increasingly looking like a failed coup, but it appears to be a very different story in other parts of the country and especially in the north," said a Western diplomat in the capital. "It's a very fluid situation."

Defence Minister Major General Habte-Giorgis Habte-Mariam was killed by rebels in the attempted coup, sources close to the government said.

Habte-Giorgis was killed at the Defence Ministry Tuesday afternoon after he refused to join the rebellion, they added.

In government broadcasts from Addis Ababa's closed international airport, commercial and

private pilots were warned not to fly over the northern city of Asmara, the capital of the Eritrean province that has been in revolt against the government for the past 28 years.

The broadcasts, monitored in neighbouring Kenya, said flights over the provincial capital were dangerous. Asmara is the headquarters of Ethiopia's 2nd army, consisting of some 150,000 soldiers thought to be siding with the coup leaders.

"We're just not sure what's going on in Asmara, whether the army has handed its arms to the EPLF (the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Force) or whether it remains a viable, unified force in opposition to the government," said the diplomat, who spoke to the AP only on condition of anonymity.

Diplomats in Nairobi, in touch with their embassies in Addis Ababa, reported two hours of heavy fighting between rebel and

loyalist troops at the old airport, which is near barracks housing Soviet military advisers.

They also reported clashes involving tanks outside the Defence Ministry, where the coup attempt began Tuesday afternoon.

In addition, a correspondent for Reuters in Addis Ababa reported intermittent small arms fire around Victory Square, where parades are often held.

"The situation from what we have heard is very confused. Non-one really knows what is happening up there," one diplomat in Nairobi said.

Ethiopian state radio reported earlier Wednesday that the coup attempt had been crushed.

The radio said two of the coup leaders, Chief of Staff of the armed forces Major General Merid Negusse and the head of the air force, Major General Amha Desta, had been killed and several other generals linked to

the uprising had been arrested.

Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam cut short a visit to East Germany and left East Berlin less than 24 hours after he arrived with a high-powered delegation for a four-day visit to discuss economic ties and other matters.

It was not immediately clear whether Mengistu was headed for Addis Ababa or another destination.

Officials (EPLF) said in the Sudanese capital Khartoum that units opposed to Mengistu had captured Asmara radio station, which was broadcasting calls for a ceasefire in the civil war and for the formation of a broad-based provisional government.

A Reuters radio monitor in Nairobi heard air traffic control authorities in Addis Ababa instructing their counterparts in Jeddah and Aden not to route flights through the Asmara zone.

Uprising gnaws Israeli economy

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli economy stagnated in the first four months of 1989, extending last year's slowdown, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Tuesday.

"The data do not indicate any recovery from last year's slowdown," Ezra Hadar, head of national accounts at the statistics office, told a news conference.

Gross domestic product grew by just 1.6 per cent last year, the lowest rate since 1982.

Figures for the first four months indicated a drop in exports, consumption and new investment, while unemployment rose to eight per cent, compared with an average of 6.4 per cent in 1988, he said.

"Industrial production was stable at a low level, and the only bright spot was a recovery in tourism and construction," he added.

The statistics bureau offered no explanation for the slump but economists have blamed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the exchange rate

and high labour costs.

The gloomy figures came 24 hours after the bureau announced an unexpectedly large jump in inflation. Consumer prices rose by 2.6 per cent in April, bringing inflation since the beginning of the year to 9.7 per cent.

Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin said the ministry was surprised by the high index. He denied that the recently implemented austerity plan had failed.

"We are facing a process in which companies are becoming more efficient, at the cost of a rise in unemployment... but there is no change in our policy," he said. Final statistics for 1988 show industrial output fell three per cent and industrial exports dropped 2.1 per cent.

Israel's trade deficit totalled \$5.3 billion last year, compared with \$5.8 billion in 1987. Consumer prices rose 16.2 per cent in the year, and Israel's gross foreign debt totalled \$31 billion.



Palestinians stage a military-style parade in the occupied West Bank

Greeks, Turks quit Nicosia positions

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek and Turkish Cypriot forces Wednesday abandoned 24 military positions along the green line that divides Nicosia, capital of the island, United Nations officials reported.

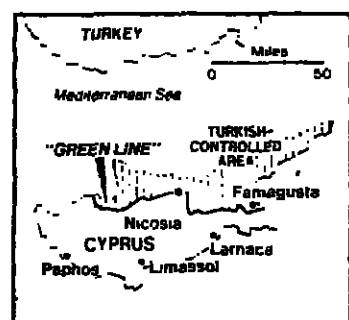
The pullback agreement, brokered by the U.N. peacekeeping force based on the island since 1964, was aimed at reducing tension along the buffer zone that runs through the old, walled section of the city.

The commander of the U.N. force, Canadian Major-General Clive Milner, said the limited disengagement took place at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) and termed it "an important first step towards further deconfrontation in Nicosia."

A U.N. statement said the Greek Cypriot national guard and the Turkish Cypriot forces each quit 12 observation posts in three sectors of the buffer zone, but did not dismantle them.

In some sections of the green line in the narrow alleyways of the old walled city, the rival forces are only a few metres apart.

The U.N. force was "satisfied that it is the intention of all concerned on both sides to keep the posts unmanned," the state-



ment said.

Milner noted that his command "has for several years been seeking agreement on means of separating forces in dangerously close proximity along the buffer zone."

A Greek Cypriot National Guard soldier shot and wounded a Turkish Cypriot trooper on the green line in Nicosia May 7, then killed himself.

Five people were killed by gunfire between May and December last year, the same number of fatalities reported between 1976 and last May.

The limited pullback came amid talks between President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Rauf Denktash, president of northern statelet recognised only by Turkey, on reunification under a U.N.-proposed bizonal federation.

The talks, the first in three years, began last September but have made little headway.

U.N. officials hope that the pullback agreement will lead to further such moves aimed at eventual demilitarisation of the island.

Afghan rebel government seeks Non-Aligned membership

ISLAMABAD (R) — A Pakistan-based Afghan rebel government has sought membership of the Non-Aligned Movement, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

He told reporters Pakistan would back the move at a current meeting of non-aligned foreign ministers in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare.

The spokesman said rebel government President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi handed the application for the membership to Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarwa when the two met in Islamabad earlier this month.

"We don't know what will be the outcome of that application," he said.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe is current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, whose Harare meeting is due to prepare an agenda for its next summit in Yugoslavia in September.

The spokesman said a delegation of Iran-based Afghan rebels had arrived in Pakistan for fresh talks on joining the rebel "interim" government, which seeks to overthrow the Soviet-backed Afghan government in Kabul.

The Iran-based rebels boycotted the coalition when it was set up last February, saying they deserved a bigger share of power than offered.

The coalition later won the

Afghan seat in the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) although only four members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan and Malaysia — have recognised the group individually.

The Pakistani spokesman said Islamabad would back the group if it sought to oust the Kabul government from the United Nations and take its seat.

"Rebels abandon assault"

The Afghan government said Tuesday guerrillas had abandoned their quest to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad and launched a major offensive on the southern border town of Khost.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the armed forces responded to the frontal assault by 9,000 guerrillas with heavy artillery and air strikes.

Dozens of Scud-B missiles also were fired from bases in Kabul, about 360 kilometres north of Khost.

At least 1,193 guerrillas had been killed since the attack began Sunday, including 723 since Monday, Amani said.

Also, rebels fired seven rockets into the capital Tuesday he said. One hit a gate at a terminal at Kabul airport, killing a woman and two workers, he said. There were no other casualties, he added.

Rain and low cloud cover grounded the Afghan air force, allowing the insurgents hiding in the surrounding mountains to move in closer to the city. Military transport and civilian flights were cancelled.

Mujahedeen control much of the Afghan countryside, but they do not control any cities. Capturing a city would give them a base for their interim government.

In early March, the guerrillas launched a major assault on Jalalabad, located 75 kilometres from Pakistan, after surrendering several key outposts early in the attack. The government troops beat back the guerrillas in a counter-attack.

According to Amani, government forces swept through the southwestern part of the city starting Monday to clear out the rebels. He said 35 guerrillas were killed and 34 wounded. Eight civilians also were wounded.

Having failed to capture the city, Amani said, the guerrillas attacked the southern town of Khost, about 10 kilometres from the Pakistan border.

"They were expecting a quick victory in Jalalabad, but they found this was very difficult," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "Now they have failed and given up and begun an attack on Khost."

Unlike Jalalabad, Khost has no major airport or telecommunications centre.

Shamir threatens to resign

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir threatened to resign if his right-wing Likud bloc rejects the government peace initiative based on elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a top Shamir aide said Wednesday.

"If the party rejects the initiative, that means Mr. Shamir will have to consider resignation," the aide, Yossi Ahimeir, told the Associated Press.

Shamir faces growing opposition in Likud against the election initiative. Three influential Likud ministers voted against the plan which was approved 20-6 by the cabinet Sunday.

The Shamir proposal has been rejected by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and leading Palestinians in the occupied lands who say it is a ploy to cheat Palestinians out of an independent state.

Industry Minister Ariel Sharon blasted the Shamir plan which calls for Palestinian representatives elected in the balloting to negotiate an interim autonomy settlement with Israel.

"The plan that has been presented, to my regret, is a plan that will bring more violence, more terror and will bring us closer to war," Sharon, a former defence minister, said on Israel Radio.

Economics Minister Yitzhak Mordechai of Likud, who also opposes the plan, Tuesday called on Shamir to resign and demanded new elections.

Sharon ordered the convening of Likud's central committee, the party's main decision-making body, to vote on the plan. Sharon heads the 2,500-member central committee.

Sharon requested Shamir's approval for such a meeting in June, Ahimeir said. Shamir, head of Likud, favours discussion of his plan, but has not decided on a final date, Ahimeir said.

Ahimeir said Shamir would consider resigning if the committee rejected the plan. "Such a vote could be considered a vote of no confidence," Ahimeir said.

Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy, also an opponent of the Shamir plan, have repeatedly challenged Shamir's leadership and head powerful camps within the party.

However, a rejection of the Shamir plan by the committee appeared unlikely in view of Shamir's popularity and the anti-Likud backlash his resignation would create among Israeli voters.

Four months ago, Shamir used the threat of resignation to force the central committee to accept a coalition agreement with the Labour Party despite widespread resistance.

Shamir supporters, meanwhile, urged U.S. officials not to press for details on controversial elements of the plan, saying such a move would stir further opposition in Likud.

"The Americans will be crazy if they press us now," the Jerusalem Post quoted a senior Likud source as saying. "It's a sure formula for scuttling the process altogether."

One disputed point is the participation of Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem in the proposed elections. The Shamir plan has not addressed the issue.

Labour Party leaders support the participation of Arab Jerusalemites, saying it would make the plan more acceptable to Palestinians.

Likud hardliners oppose such a move, saying it would undermine the status of Jerusalem as a "united unity."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to ask Swiss for Khashoggi extradition

NEW YORK (R) — The United States will ask Switzerland this week to extradite Saudi Arabian millionaire Adnan Khashoggi to face fraud charges in connection with his dealings with ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, a federal judge said Tuesday. Judge John Keenan said formal extradition papers had been translated and signed and would be delivered to Swiss authorities by Friday. Marcos and his wife, Imelda, are accused of looting the Philippine Treasury of \$103 million and using the money to buy Manhattan real estate.

Algerians disperse protesters

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces fired tear gas to disperse youngsters demonstrating in protest against slow progress of development projects in their villages. The official news agency APS said the youngsters had set up barricades Tuesday across the road leading to the village of Ben Chaabane, about 40 kilometres southwest of Algiers, and demanded to talk to district officials. The paramilitary national gendarmerie dispersed the demonstrators when the officials did not arrive, APS said.

UAE to return envoy to Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to return its ambassador to Khartoum this week, the Sudan News Agency reported. The agency said Mohammed Sultan Al Sioudi was to return to Sudan in the company of Ahmad Al Mirghani, the head of the state council, Sudan's collective presidency, who began a three-day visit to the UAE Monday.

Greeks protest air pollution

ATHENS (AP) — More than 3,000 protesters, many wearing surgical masks, marched through the city centre Tuesday to protest air pollution in the capital. The marchers shouted slogans such as "SOS" and "Athens can and must live" during the rally organised by leftist parties. In a declaration, the demonstrators asked for less traffic, better public transportation in the centre, reduction of industrial pollution and more park areas in Athens.

Divorce suits to protest low incomes

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — More than 1,000 workers in this south-eastern city filed suits Tuesday to divorce their wives on the grounds they can't support a family on their income, a union official said. Musa Celik, head of the Diyarbakir branch of the Yot-is trade union, said 1,070 workers employed by Turkey's highway authority filed their individual suits in Diyarbakir civil court. He said the workers said in a joint petition for divorce their income "was not sufficient to provide even the most fundamental needs of their families and this was causing quarrels and making unbearable." Celik said the average monthly wage of the workers was the equivalent of about \$70.

Iran plans to create two million jobs

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian minister has predicted annual economic growth of five per cent for the next five years, creating two million new jobs. Planning and Budget Minister Masoud Roushani Zanjani told a Tehran news conference the armed forces and war-hit areas would get top priority under the 1989-1993 development plan, due to go to parliament in July. Zanjani said the government planned to sell some "non-strategic" industries to the private sector and use the proceeds to develop strategic units. Zanjani said the creation of two million jobs through growth in the gross domestic product would bring unemployment down from the current 15.9 per cent to 14.2 per cent in 1993.

Iran hangs 10 in public

NICOSIA (R) — Iran hanged 10 drug traffickers in public Tuesday, taking the total executed this year to 489. Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the 10 had been found guilty of handling a tonne of opium and 350 grammes of heroin. They were executed in Gorgan and Lahjan, both near the Caspian coast. Iran stepped up its fight against drugs in January with laws setting the death penalty for possession of five kilogrammes of opium or 30 grammes of heroin. Officials say one million people, or one out of every 50 Iranians, are drug users.

Turkey opens Ottoman archives

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey threw open the doors to centuries of Ottoman archives Tuesday in an attempt to show a more open face to the judgment of history. Foreign academics said new regulations opening up the records were a major step towards settling Armenian claims that they were the victims of Ottoman genocide in eastern Turkey during the World War I. "It will be once more understood... there was not even a single page in the history of our nation... of which we are ashamed," Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said in a statement. "Let anyone come, let the Armenian researchers come. Too much history has been left in darkness," said Ismet Miroglu, director of the archives. Turkey denies there was any campaign of genocide against the Armenians.

Inmates revolt at Turkish prison

ISTANBUL (AP) — Leftist inmates revolted at a high security prison in Istanbul Tuesday to protest prison conditions, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. Anatolia said the prisoners started a fire inside the jail which was extinguished by firefighters. Prison officials brought the protest under control. The dispatch said four people including two soldiers were injured, but it did not identify the two other injured. Anatolia did not say how many prisoners took part in the uprising, how long it lasted or how the four were injured.

Tehran confirms Iranians smuggled explosives

NICOSIA (R) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's son confirmed in a letter published Tuesday that Iranians smuggled explosives into Saudi Arabia in 1986.

Ahmad Khomeini said he had written the letter in Ettelaat newspaper to help explain his father's sacking in March of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who had been designated to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini as supreme leader.

The letter referred to an incident three years ago in which Saudi Arabia charged that Iranian Revolutionary Guards planned bombings to destabilise the Kingdom and disrupt the Haj.

Ahmad Khomeini quoted passages from a letter dated Oct. 9,

1986, in which Montazeri discussed "the matter of explosives in Saudi Arabia," with Khomeini.

"Now those in the (Revolutionary Guards) Corps who have made this wrong move and disgraced us in the Haj season cannot be prosecuted," Montazeri said, complaining that innocent people, including associates of his, had been put on trial.

Ahmad Khomeini, his father's chief aide, said in his letter that the right people had been tried for the smuggling and added: "Secondly, is there any way for revolutionary actions other than what was done in Mecca?"

"Of course this kind of activity is sometimes done without a hitch and sometimes discovered. This

does not mean that I agree with such things, but this is generally how they go."

Saudi Arabian television showed confessions by Iranian pilgrims to the 1986 Haj who said they tried to smuggle in plastic explosives. Tehran denied the charge at the time.

Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran in April 1988 after riots which broke out at the 1987 Haj in Mecca. About 400 people, most of them Iranians, were killed.

Tehran boycotted last year's ceremony when the Saudis refused to allow demonstrations or accept more than 45,000 Iranians under a quota system.

The two countries renewed

verbal attacks this week after several months of calm.

Bahraini call

Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa urged in an interview published Tuesday that Iran show good-will towards its neighbours.

The appeal from Khalifa, whose country is the current chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that includes Saudi Arabia, appeared designed to cool the developing crisis between Tehran and Riyadh.

The GCC countries also include Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. They have been trying to use the Aug. 20, 1988 Iran-Iraq ceasefire to

promote better relations with Iran and persuade Iran to end destabilising threats to its neighbours.

"Iran is present in the region, and is a neighbour of ours, and we must have an exchange of good relations with it. But all such expectations remain hinged on Iranian goodwill," said Khalifa in an interview published in Bahrain's daily Akhbar Al Khaleej and Kuwait's daily Al Sayassah.

"With the presence of goodwill, Iran can attain the best of relations, a necessity for the sake of spreading stability and trust in the region, and inherently bring many benefits to all."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Local programme
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Local programme
18:50 "Alph"
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Arabic play
22:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sitter
18:30 La Chance Aux Chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Tahtle
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Family Sin"

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise) Duha
05:52 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:32 Maghreb
21:01 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151.
Ammann International Church Tel. 665326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will remain above the annual average although a slight drop is expected. Winds will be westerly fresh gusting dust in the eastern areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly fresh wind and calm sea.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

CHURCHES

Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 60224050
Water and Sewerage 661176

CHURCHES

AMMAN: Dr. Majed Abu Steiryeh 881635
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaer 891405
Dr. Anwar Al Ashab 602507
Dr. Adel Dabbous 893644
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 636372
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

CHURCHES

IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Al Ta'ani (—)
Al Sharara pharmacy (985338)

CHURCHES

ZARQA: Dr. Ziad Salim (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

CHURCHES

Complaints 897467
Ammann Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

CHURCHES

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 818813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
The Islamic, Abdali 6652727
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marjeh 891611/13
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674153

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:10 Aqaba (RJ)
10:15 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Jeddah (RJ)
10:20 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:00 Calcutta (RJ)
11:00 Larnaca (RJ)
11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:20 Athens (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
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FOR FRIDAY

Jordanian, French experts discuss urbanisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A workshop on rural changes in the Middle East opened in Amman Wednesday with the participation of 15 Arab and French researchers.

The workshop will discuss various modernisation and urbanisation trends with particular attention on migration from rural to urban areas within the Arab World.

A working paper presented by sociologist Suleiman Sweiss offered useful information about the situation in Jordan's rural regions. Four decades ago Sweiss said, the people of rural areas in Jordan accounted for 65 per cent of the total population, declining to 47 per cent in 1961 and a mere 30 per cent in 1989, Sweiss said.

He said that people migrated to the cities which now house more than 70 per cent of the population. Residents of the rural areas of Jordan enjoyed relative self-sufficiency and used to sell surplus of their products to the city and export to other countries, but the trend has now changed drastically with the rural population unable to support themselves, Sweiss noted.

The researcher referred to continued migration to urban areas and said that many farmers had to abandon their land and seek jobs in the city or in the armed forces, thus drastically reducing the country's food production.

He said poor production levels,

marketing problems, the relative high cost of farm equipment and fertilisers forced farmers to turn to other means of income, the researcher noted.

Sweiss said continued migration to the urban areas has caused a serious problem and rendered the country unable to ensure food security and more dependent on imported foodstuffs.

Other speakers included Dr. Fahd Al Fanek who represented the Arab Thought Forum which organised the meeting in cooperation with the Centre of Studies and Research in Contemporary Middle East and the French Studies and Documentation Centre on Law, Economics and Social Sciences in Cairo and the French Institute for Arabic Studies in Damascus.

Fanek said that the Arab Thought Forum maintains close cooperation with Arab and world organisations to organise gatherings and meetings that can help improve conditions in the Arab World.

Rural changes in the Middle East is one of the prime topics for the Arab Thought Forum in view of its close links with development and its socio-economic influence on the population, Fanek noted.

French researcher Francois Troin presented a paper on socio-economic evolution in upper Egypt.

Seeking agricultural cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's wheat production this year is at a low level due largely to the recurrent waves of frost that hit the crop in the past winter and reduced Jordan's agricultural production in general, Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran said here Wednesday.

The minister was speaking at separate meetings with the Lebanese, British and Japanese ambassadors to Jordan whom he briefed on the Kingdom's general agricultural situation and government plans to organise production and marketing.

Lebanese Ambassador Butros Zyadeh the prospect of increasing the volume of exchanged shipments of agricultural crops between the two countries and benefiting from Lebanon's experience in producing pine nuts.

Badran discussed with Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe the prospect of Japan financing a Jordanian project for the production of improved vegetable seeds, and water resources exploitation.

The minister discussed with the

British Ambassador Anthony Reeve the prospect of enquiring British firms' help to produce pesticides in Jordan to save funds spent on imported pesticides. He also reviewed with the ambassador agricultural projects underway in the Aqaba region and a fishery recently established in the port city.

Badran voiced Jordan's appreciation to the British and Japanese governments for their assistance to the Kingdom in its drive to combat desert locusts that invaded Jordan last autumn.

Midway between producers, consumers: Arab World becomes transit point for drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan and the rest of the Arab World are located midway between Europe, Africa and Asia, and Arab territory has therefore witnessed continuous smuggling and drug trafficking operations over the ages, according to Dr. Akram Nashaat Ibrahim, secretary general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council who is now on a visit to Jordan.

Ibrahim said that the Arab World lies between the major drug producer nations in the east and in Asia on the one hand and Europe which is the major consumer in the north on the other, a position which makes it imperative on governments to double efforts to stem the drug trafficking trade.

For its part Jordan does not suffer from a drug addiction problem, but having a central geographical location in the Arab

World, it is constantly exposed to drug trafficking operations, Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Ibrahim is in Amman to take part in a conference by Arab anti-narcotics departments in which 15 Arab states are participating. Ibrahim was one of the main speakers at the conference's opening session in Amman Tuesday, when he called on Arab states to increase their cooperation in combating drug trafficking within their regions.

With the introduction of fast means of transportation and the adoption of open trade systems and other facilities, drug trafficking and means of smuggling the illicit products have increased since the last century, Ibrahim noted.

He said there are alarming signs that the danger of drugs is now spreading in the Arab region

and all Arab states have to join forces in the fight against the looming danger, Ibrahim warned.

Referring to the council's development, Ibrahim said that it was established in 1982 upon a resolution from the Arab interior ministers representing 21 countries.

The council aims to combat drug trafficking, ensure greater measures of security for the Arab World and help national authorities to establish security and stability. This programme, he noted, is being implemented through four regional offices set up in Amman, Damascus, Baghdad and Casablanca.

In the course of endeavours to combat drug trafficking Ibrahim said, the council has prepared and endorsed a pan-Arab strategy which is expected to boost the Arab World's ability to control narcotics.



CONGRATULATIONS: Patriarch Theodoros, of the Greek Orthodox church in Jerusalem and a group of bishops and priests called Wednesday on Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to offer their congratulations for his appointment as prime minister. The patriarch and his team wished the prime minister success in his duty and in implementing the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to serve Jordan and the Arab Nation (Petra photo)

Energy conference concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — The participants in the international conference on energy systems called for reducing the consumption of energy, improving the effectiveness of its use in various fields, and establishing a regional information centre in the field of energy in general and Arab electrical systems in particular. This was reported in the final session of the conference which concluded Wednesday.

The conferees also called for paying special attention to studies dealing with the use of solar energy and stressed the importance of information related to speed of wind and solar radiation in the Arab countries. The conferees also pointed out the need to expand the use of computers in running and maintaining electrical energy systems as well as scientific researchers.

Moreover, the conferees noted the need to train technicians and engineers working in the field of energy so as to modernise their expertise.

It is noteworthy that the three-day conference, which was attended by a number of Arab and foreign experts and specialists, reviewed 34 working papers dealing with energy resources with special focus on the use of solar and wind energy powers as alternative sources of energy.

Teachers Training College opens 3rd branch in Karak

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education will open a branch in Karak for the newly established Advanced Teachers Training College during the coming summer, and at least 270 male and female students are expected to benefit from its courses, according to a ministry spokesman as quoted by Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday.

The paper said that with the opening of the branch in Karak, the college will have established three branches, with the other two being in Amman and Irbid. The spokesman, Afif Abdul Rahman said that a total of 1,200 male and female students will be admitted to these branches during 1989 to provide them with training in teaching and allow them to acquire higher degrees in their respective specialisations.

The spokesman said that participants in the courses from government schools will benefit from the courses free of charge but those coming from private schools will have to pay fees equal to those paid at Jordanian universities.

The college, he said, offers four year courses to undergraduate teachers and two year courses to those with community college diplomas in addition to training in teaching methods. Abdul Rahman said that the

college was established in implementation of resolutions passed by the first Jordanian educational conference held in Amman in 1987.

Last year, the Amman branch admitted 300 students while the Irbid branch took 240 students for these courses, the spokesman said. Soon, he added, the ministry will open branches in other provinces and organise summer courses for those living and working in remote regions.

According to Abdul Rahman teachers working in schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) can benefit from the project.

WCO conference concludes

CAIRO (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipality Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh has proposed choosing assistants for the president of the World Capitals Organisation (WCO) representing various parts of the world so as to facilitate discussion of issues and holding contacts with the WCO.

Rawabdeh proposed this during the meetings of the WCO executive committee which concluded in Cairo Wednesday. During the meetings, the committee endorsed the basic rules of the WCO and approved of some recommendations Rawabdeh had proposed.

The agenda of the second WCO, which is scheduled to convene in June 1990, was also approved. It includes matters related to exchange of expertise among the capitals which have similar problems, as well as tackling the problems of administration, infrastructure, social services, rural migration, elimination of garbage, economic growth, and provision of various services to the people.

At the closing session, Cairo Governor Dr. Mohammad Sharif delivered a speech emphasising the importance of cooperation among the various world capitals so as to solve problems, exchange expertise, and help in solving environmental pollution.

Ministry prepares for Tawjihi

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education's educational committee held a meeting Tuesday to discuss arrangements for holding the Tawjihi examinations in Jordan in the coming month.

Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour who chaired the meeting said strict measures will be adopted against violators of regulations concerning the examination which will be held by the middle of June.

The minister said that school graduation ceremonies would be simple and devoid from all forms of lavish spending.



Ghazi and Maria Saudi cordially welcome Mr. and Mrs. Robin Bellerby who are currently visiting Jordan, wishing them a pleasant stay among their many friends and students of Daviess College in Hove Brighton.

British Ladies of Amman MAY FAIR

FRIDAY MAY 26 1989, 11 am - 5 pm

in the Garden of H.E. British Ambassador's Residence
"ALL PROCEEDS TO LOCAL CHARITIES"

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY
MOMMA WITCH
AT 12 NOON

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ENTRANCE: ADULTS	J.D. 1.000
CHILDREN	J.D. 0.250

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY...
ENTERTAINMENT
FACE PAINTING
GAMES
CRAFT ITEMS
WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

GRAND RAFFLE!
DOOR PRIZE!
FOOD, REFRESHMENTS,
AND MORE...

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHEEP COMPLEX: The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has started building complex in Tafleeh Governorate for fattening sheep and providing veterinary services to the local farmers and stock breeders. JCO officials said that the complex can accommodate 7,000 heads of sheep most of which will be consumed in the local markets (Petra).

NEW SITE: Amman Municipality has started dumping garbage and other waste collected in the capital at an old and deserted site within the Rusafa phosphate mines area instead of the old dumping area in Marka. A municipality spokesman said that special equipment have been installed in the new site for the treatment of the garbage. The new dumping ground serves the Amman and Zarqa cities, the most populated in the Kingdom (Petra).

MEDICAL CENTRE: The construction of a medical centre at Mara's Sabha in Mafraq Governorate has concluded. The centre, which cost JD 124,000 includes clinics covering all medical needs (Petra).

ART CRITIC: Art critic Mazen Asfour will on Thursday May 18 initiate lectures and discussions dealing with art and its various aspects based on art works displayed at Al Wasiti gallery at Amman Plaza. Asfour who has just returned from Italy where he received ample training on art and art criticism, announced that criticism sessions will be held on weekly basis (J.T.).

EDUCATION: Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour has stressed the importance of the teacher in the process of education and that teaching entails full concentration on educational matters. During a meeting with educational organisations in Sweileh Wednesday, Dr. Nsour called for cooperation among the various schools in Sweileh in order to attain the highest possible standards (Petra).

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Dr. Abdul Azz Khayyat Wednesday met separately with his Syrian, Egyptian, and Moroccan counterparts on the sidelines of the fourth conference of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministers currently convening in Jeddah. During the meeting, they discussed mutual cooperation particularly in Islamic affairs. Khayyat also conferred with his Saudi counterpart and discussed cooperation, Islamic affairs, and matters related to pilgrimage (Petra).

SEMINAR: A two-day seminar Wednesday opened at Mu'ta University on raising the standard of school principals in the 1990s. The seminar will discuss a number of subjects dealing with the scientific bases of choosing school principals and means to train them efficiently to perform their duties (Petra).

INSPECTION: Aqaba District Governor Qahtan Al Majali Wednesday inspected work underway at Al Rabayha region in Aqaba and reviewed preparations undertaken for transit passengers. In April 15,397 passengers arrived from Egypt and 2,653 left for that country (Petra).

ENDORSEMENTS: The Council of Ministers Wednesday endorsed the organisational structure and budget of the Aqaba Region Authority for 1989. The council also endorsed the minutes of the ninth session of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee which convened in Amman on April 22 (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * A music art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tunisiyyeh at the Housing Gallery.
- * The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * An art exhibition by Aziz Ammoura at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Leishan.
- * An exhibition entitled "Grand Projects for the State: 1979-1989" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 aerial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alfa Gallery.
- * A photography exhibition by Abid Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- * An art exhibition by Diana Shamoumki at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery (Friday) — 5:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * A Woody Allen feature film entitled "Hannah and her sisters" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- * A Charly Chaplin film week at Haya Cultural Centre. (For more information call the centre).

LECTURE

- * A lecture, with slides, on the restoration works of the Michelangelo's frescoes at the Sistine Chapel in Rome by Prof. Nazzareno Gabrielli at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

FESTIVAL

- * An international Jordanian festival at the American Community School (Friday) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JAE team leaves for Sanaa

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Wednesday flew to Sanaa, capital of North Yemen on a week-long visit and talks on bilateral cooperation in electricity fields. The talks will be conducted with officials and engineers from the North Yemeni electricity corporation, and will cover technical, financial and management of electricity production and distribution, according to a JEA spokesman.

The spokesman said that the team members will make field trips to a number of power installations and will help local authorities to work out a plan for financial, technical and administrative development in power-

generating fields. He said that the team will introduce a computerised system to the Yemeni corporation to help training and management operations.

Last month a North Yemeni delegation held talks with JEA officials here on cooperation in electricity, in implementation of an agreement signed earlier by the two sides.

The JEA then announced that it was going ahead with a project of preparing designs, specifications and tender documents pertaining to an electrification project in North Yemen. The project entails supplying electricity to 800 villages in Yemen through a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Scientific cooperation with Soviets

IRBID (J.T.) — A visiting delegation from the Soviet Academy of Sciences led by Professor Oleg Bogatkov Wednesday met Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan to discuss cooperation between the two institutions in scientific and technological affairs. The team, which arrived in Amman Tuesday evening on a week-long visit, explored with Hamdan areas of cooperation in these fields and heard a briefing on the development of Yarmouk University and a number of its departments.

visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) is expected to hold talks with officials and specialists running scientific centres and universities in Jordan on scopes of bilateral cooperation in science and technology and also in renewable sources of energy and means of protecting the environment.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two sides are expected to prepare the ground for joint protocols on future cooperation.

Statistics seminar starts

AMMAN (Petra) — Officials employed by departments of statistics in seven Arab countries including Jordan started a training seminar in Amman Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Department of Statistics which is organising the seminar in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Statistics and Research Training said that the participants will discuss topics ranging from financial planning, systems of statistics used in the Arab World and financial data, to balances of pay-

ments and financial statistics. Taking part in the two-week seminar are participants from Jordan, North and South Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Qatar, Somalia and Palestine.

The department's director general Dr. Abdul Hadi Alawi said that continued development challenges facing the Arab World make it incumbent on Arab states to promote their statistical systems to cope with the requirements of socio-economic growth and help implement development plans.

Qudah calls for unified ACC customs duties

AQABA (Petra) — Director General of the Customs Department Adel Al Qudah Tuesday called for unifying all customs duties among the four founding countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to ensure a fair and ideal commercial exchange among these countries — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

He added that his department has introduced temporary admission regulations to encourage investment and has also opened a customs office in Sahab Industrial City for facilitating customs clearance.

Qatarneeh meets councils heads, approves budgets

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Governor Eid Qataneh Wednesday discussed with several local councils' directors their plans and programmes for development and stressed the importance of carrying out constructive projects that can meet the needs of the

society. On another development Governor Qataneh approved the budgets of Al Qinya, Um Al Mikman and Al Dubaitheen municipal councils estimated respectively at JD 55,024, JD 37,681 and JD 29,604.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تأسست بالتمويل من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Director General:

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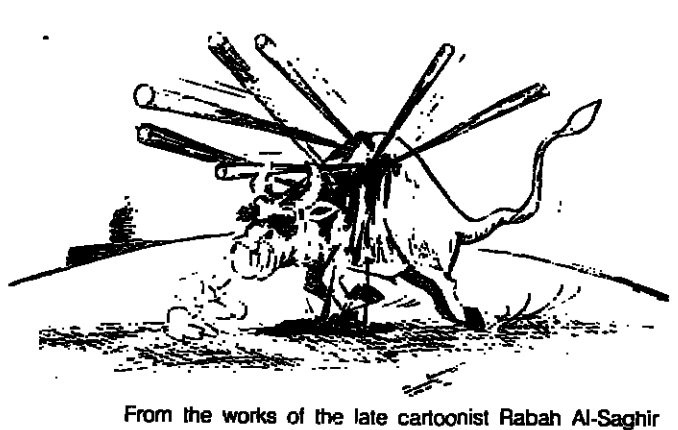
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For the mufti's sake, no more killings

THE huge car bomb which assassinated the grand mufti of Lebanon Sheikh Hassan Khaled and killed and wounded scores of other innocent Lebanese was obviously aimed at the destruction of the ceasefire and good will that were generated by recent painstaking Arab League efforts. It is no mere coincidence that the murder of the Sunni leader in Lebanon occurred at a time when the Arab efforts in Lebanon were beginning to bear fruit and were on the verge of attaining and declaring an unprecedented breakthrough in the Lebanese crisis. All those forces which are on the side of continued bloodshed in Lebanon must accordingly be viewed as probable suspects, on the top of which are Israeli agents. It is no secret that Israel is having a field day since Lebanon was submerged in inter-factional and inter-Arab armed struggles and internecine fighting and killing. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its perpetual occupation of southern Lebanon cannot be viewed except as most destabilising developments that have contributed a great deal to Lebanon's continued ordeal.

Yet, Israel and its agents are not the only suspects in this macabre assault on the leader of the Sunni Muslims in Lebanon. There are ample diabolic opportunists; within Lebanon who are working constantly to keep the fire in Lebanon burning indefinitely. What better way to keep the flame of hostility in Lebanon burning than by killing religious leaders whether Muslim or Christian? And, since the intentions of the perpetrators of this latest heinous crime against the whole of Lebanon is to sow discord once again in Lebanon in the wake of the latest Arab successes to bring about an initial agreement between the various factions, it behoves the aggrieved party not to succumb to the trap set for it and for the whole Lebanese people by not reacting in kind. Otherwise, the cycle of revenge would be set in motion once again with the no end in sight. Accordingly, all those who truly mourn Sheikh Khaled are urged to abstain from acts of revenge in honour of the man who struggled so hard to bring about harmony and accord among his one people. This would be the highest tribute that can be bestowed upon Sheikh Khaled and all those who support his glorious path of reconciliation.



From the works of the late cartoonist Rabah Al-Saghir

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic daily newspapers on Wednesday welcomed a visit here by Sultan Qaboos of Oman who upon arrival voiced his country's total support for Jordan and its appreciation of King Hussein's services to the Arab Nation. Al Rai daily said that the King and the Sultan have voiced their satisfaction for their relations and their keenness to develop cooperation between the countries in various fields. Both leaders also expressed their determination to work together to bolster Arab ranks and carry out joint efforts in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, the paper noted. There is no wonder then that the two leaders maintain contacts since they hold similar views and aim to achieve the same goals, the paper added. The paper said that the Jordanian people look with pride to their leadership's endeavours at the pan-Arab level and welcome the sultan's visit here as part of the collective Arab effort.

A columnist in Al Rai daily suggests that an annual Arab expatriates conference be held in any Arab capital designed to strengthen their ties with their Arab homeland. Ibrahim Sakikijha says such conference would create an opportune moment for the Arab leaders and the representatives of the expatriates to exchange ideas on the best means of cooperating to bolster the Arab World's ties with the outside world and ensure meaningful support for Arab causes worldwide. The writer refers to the coming expatriates conference in July and says that it should be exploited towards achieving these goals as well as securing continual transfers and constant backing from these expatriates to their home country. Sakikijha says not only should we invite those living in Arab countries to take part in the proposed pan-Arab conference but important personalities living in the United States and Latin America should also be invited to participate. The writer refers to the election of an Argentine of Arab origin, Carlos Menem as president and says that numerous other people of Arab origin now enjoy high positions in different countries of the world.

Al Dustour daily said that the very warm welcome by Jordan to Sultan Qaboos reflects the Jordanian people's genuine feelings towards the leader of Oman which had continually supported Jordan's stand. The paper said the Sultan's current visit here acquires an importance of a new dimension since it comes on the eve of an Arab summit meeting and following a long and fruitful relationship between the two countries. Thanks to the sincere efforts of King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos, Jordan and Oman are now enjoying very strong ties and continue to maintain cooperation in all fields and at all levels, the paper said. The paper expressed hope that the sultan's current visit to Jordan will contribute towards stronger ties between the two brotherly states.

Defining the limits of fourth estate

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Maintaining and deepening dialogue between the government and citizens in the context of calm dialogue through direct or indirect communications and respecting responsible freedom of expression and freedom of the press in accordance with internationally recognised national principles based on the concept of national belonging and the multitude of opinions within reasonable limits." This is His Majesty King Hussein's directive to the new government, April 26, 1989, concerning the role of the media.

On May 15, the government of Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker made the first step in this direction. Five journalists previously banned from writing, were allowed to resume "their journalistic activities and effectively participate in serving their country and society through their work."

Speaking to journalists on May 15, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid said that the government will implement the King's directive, which he says, "gives all possible support and care for journalists and is keen to provide suitable and optimum atmosphere for enabling journalism to play its required national role."

The King's directive is based on the constitution, which guarantees the freedom of speech and press, and supports two of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) laws and the draft charter of human and people's rights in the Arab World. (see box).

The directive further shows Jordan's commitment to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Jordan was one of the first countries, in 1976, to sign and to ratify this covenant which emanated from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, and translated into treaty obligations on the part of each member state. (see box).

The JPA welcomed the directive wholeheartedly, voicing hopes that channels of communication between the government and all sectors of society will be further opened. According to the president of the association Hashim Khreisat the directive established the criteria for respecting differing opinions and views.

"This (the directive) inspires us to work towards organising and developing the media profession in cooperation with the government, to ensure that we will perform our role and duty, entrusted to us by the new reality created by King Hussein," Khreisat said.

Both he and former minister of information, Leila Sharaf see the new reality emerging when the

new government implements the King's directives and "restructures the media in order for all (citizens) to express their opinions by the right means and for (the purpose of) development," Khreisat said.

Both agree that the King's directives will soon be translated into "practical steps" by the government.

Jordanians ask whether the riots that took place in some cities and towns last month could have been avoided if the channels of communication between the government and the people were "a bit wider."

Sharaf strongly believes that after the recent riots, the new government is capable of understanding the implications behind the lack of national debate and will be taking the necessary steps to ensure the "natural flow (of communications)."

According to Sharaf: "After the parliament was dismissed... there was no forum available for people to express themselves. They had some venues (parliament and press) for national debate which made them feel that their concerns were reaching the top."

Former editor-in-chief of Al Dustour, Mahmoud Al Sharif says that he sees the King's directives as fitting a global glasnost, which calls for "more freedoms and more popular participation in decision-making."

"A free unbridled press (is essential) for the improvement of the political climate, especially in the absence of political parties," said Al Sharif.

Al Dustour columnist, Mu'nis Al Razzaz and Kuwaiti Al Watan correspondent, Abdullah Hamdan agree that in the absence of political parties, the press could act as a "substitute parliament" for Jordanians to voice their opinions. They see a great necessity at the moment for a debate preceding the forthcoming parliamentary elections whereby nominees could use the press to state their stands.

"Like parliament members, journalists should be granted immunity as long as they do not

work to agitate the people," Razzaz says.

For the debate to take place several journalists and columnists have asked whether the new government needs to look into the previous government's decision to own a majority of the stocks of the newspapers and to consider amending the press and publications law.

According to two Al Rai columnists, Tariq Masarweh and Ibrahim Abu Nab, the emergency economic powers, which were used last year to reorganise the boards and management of the four dailies, contributed to assimilation in news reporting.

Newspapers' ownership

Government quasi ownership of the newspapers meant that all newspapers became uniform, reflecting the government (owner) policy. According to journalists, interviewed this was unnecessary since the government already owned more powerful mediums of expression such as television and radio.

"The difference between a free press and a government agency, is that (the latter) is a mouthpiece for the executive branch of the state, while a free press should be a free expression of the wishes of the people," Abu Nab said.

He says that while journalists object to a government appointed management interfering with

their work, they would accept a non-government management "because journalists would have a choice to work for other newspapers if they do not like any one paper's policy."

King's directives kindle high hopes

Masarweh agrees. He says that if the government is intent on the freedom of the press, it will have to implement a new policy and sell its shares back to the public. He says that journalists should own at least 10 per cent of their respective newspapers' shares. "Such a move will save the newspapers," Masarweh says.

He cites Sawt Al Shaab as an example of the failure of government-owned newspapers to make successful business. "Sixty seven per cent of Sawt Al Shaab is owned by the government. The newspaper is losing. It has already lost a quarter of a million dinars."

"Let the people elect a board of directors, who then has the right to appoint an editor-in-chief," Masarweh says, adding that this will not mean that the people might choose a board of directors against the system "be-

cause there is no such thing as someone with or against the system. If the system is good then everyone will respect the system."

Al Rai editor-in-chief Rakan Al Majali also suggested public shareholding companies to own the newspapers.

According to Majali, "only if the paper employs those who do not have a personal interest in the newspapers, will there be a change in the present conditions (of the newspapers)." He believes that until political and social popular organisations are established, "there is a need for the press to be under (government) control in order to properly portray the country's outlook and perspective."

Revising the law

The second prerequisite necessary to remove obstacles in the path of free press, is a revision of the press and publication law. According to that law, the cabinet has an absolute right to suspend or abolish any newspaper's licence without being challenged in a court of law. The cabinet also has the right to punish any journalist who violates the law, again without being challenged in a court of law.

According to Al Sharif, the press and publications law holds the editors and journalists "in terror."

"People should be encouraged to express their opinions without (any fear of) prosecution as long as they do not endanger the security of the country."

He suggests that Jordan follows the model of other democratic states, whereby the government or any individual has the right to bring any newspaper or journalist to court on the grounds that they have violated the law.

Journalist Lamis Andoni objects to journalists facing the government pressure for "reporting facts that do not please officials." She says that objectivity does not contradict with the freedom of expression, "provided the writer reports on all aspects," of a news story.

Often, Andoni says, a journalist is held responsible for reporting a fact, "but, we are punished as though we are making up the facts."

Andoni believes when the officials become truly convinced that a free press is an essential factor for development and progress, then the "reasonable limits" contained in the King's directives — can be defined as a "practical and tolerant attitude towards the press and freedom of expression."

Otherwise, she feels there will be a misuse of power, with the "reasonable limits" determined by "the mood and the judgement of the concerned official."

Abu Nab believes that the (press and publication) law "should not be a stumbling block (in the path of a free press)." He says that the press is controlled by laws, and "(laws) should not preclude the freedom of the individual."

However, Majali does not consider the press and publications law an obstacle "since it is no longer practiced."

He says that these days newspapers are not threatened by closures, "but, editors are liable to being replaced."

Khreisat, who also calls for the revision of the press and publications law, says that the JPA board was asked by the JPA on March 24, 1989 to present any proposals for amendments to the said-law in three months time. Although the association will be working to remove any obstacles which impede the implementation of press laws "in light of the new reality created by the King's directive," Khreisat stressed "there must be an agreement between the press and publications law and the JPA law."

He explained that since the press and publications law is being enforced, "we are hoping through cooperation with the government that the association's law will also be enforced. Therefore we have to work to have both laws, which complement and do not contradict one another," be enforced.

At the same time Sharaf cautions journalists and columnists to "go slowly with the new freedom (given), until decision-makers get used to free press and to ensure (journalists) do not get a backlash."

For her, the new freedom should be a learning process for officials, journalists and the public, and "not just a (tool) for an outpour of frustrated feelings."

Journalists and columnists maintain they want to work for a more democratic press in Jordan. They believe that as the government implements the King's directives on the freedom of the press, their hopes will be fulfilled.

Razzaz sums it up: "I hope that we will turn a new page. Often we hear beautiful words about democracy, but there is a big distance from the time the decision is formulated at the top and the time it reaches the bottom." And he, like the others, does not believe in "just talking about democracy, I believe in practicing it."

South Korean unrest likely to persist

By Barry Renfrew
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The brutal deaths of six riot troops in South Korea's latest wave of protests could bring a lull to the country's turbulent politics, but there seems little chance of lasting peace.

The deaths of the officers, set on fire by radical students May 3 while trying to free five kidnapped colleagues, shocked Koreans and brought angry demands for an end to demonstrations. Government and opposition leaders all said the protests had gone too far and the violence must end.

Some radical students said they would stop violent protests and not use firebombs. Several dissent groups apologised to police for the deaths.

Many observers predict a temporary halt in protests. At the same time, political leaders and observers agree that the basic causes of unrest in South Korea have not changed and the struggle between the government and its opponents is far from over.

South Korea must overcome numerous problems to achieve stability, including ending a legacy of authoritarian rule, bitter rivalry between political parties and the impact of rapid economic and social change. Violent demonstrations are a symptom of these larger problems.

Since violence is the radicals' most effective tool, it seems unlikely they will renounce it for long, especially if the government continues its efforts to crush the dissenters. Violence has been a part of Korean politics and life for many years and there is little chance of it disappearing overnight.

Government figures show there were 1,512 major protests in the first four months of this year, in which more than 300,000 firebombs were used and about 3,800 police officers were hurt.

Korean politics are dominated by the acrimonious struggle for power between the government and the main opposition parties. The opposition has not accepted the government of Roh Tae-Woo and constantly tries to weaken or discredit it to try to bring it down.

Roh, a former general who narrowly won presidential elec-

tions in 1987 after rival candidates split the opposition vote, insists he is committed to bringing in full democracy. But critics on both the left and right charge that Roh is not overcoming many of the problems besetting the nation and say he is indecisive.

The bitter feuding between the government and the opposition has produced constant political confusion.

South Korea is still dominated to a great extent by a traditional ruling elite drawn from the military, government bureaucracy and industrialists. The group holds considerable power, despite democratic reforms since the authoritarian government of Chun Doo-Hwan was forced out after massive riots in 1987.

Opposition leaders and some political observers say real democracy won't be possible until the control of the ruling elite is ended. The opposition claims the ruling establishment will try to block democracy if it fears losing power.

The deepest changes in Korea may come from the rapid industrialisation and westernisation of the once poor, backward society. South Korea's meteoric rise as an industrial power has been accompanied by the growing sophistication of many of its people, who expect to run their country and share in its new wealth.

The professionals and skilled workers and others who produce the cars, ships and other goods that have made South Korea an

economic power are not willing to accept unresponsive governments that try to order people around.

A wave of strikes in recent months has been inspired by demands for better pay and an end to the long hours and poor working conditions many Koreans endure for little better than subsistence wages.

Radical leaders say time is on their side because industrial workers eventually will join them and fight for their dream of a utopian society. But most observers say the workers want a share of Korea's wealth and a democratic government controlled by the people.

The problem will be overcoming the many obstacles that stand in the way.

LETTERS

Objection

To the Editor:

THE Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany strongly and categorically rejects the malicious allegations with which Mr. George Khouri is approaching the German people and the federal government in his letter published in the Jordan Times on Monday, May 15, 1989.

The publication of such silly incriminations can only harm the just cause of the Palestinian claim for self-determination (recognised by the Federal Republic of Germany as one of the first states

in Western Europe) and might even poison the atmosphere of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding existing between the peoples and governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The embassy is calling on journalists, newspaper editors and the competent authorities to deal with such pamphlets in a responsible and objective way.

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Amman

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Animaux empaillés: la ruée jordanienne

Qu'ils soient adulés, tels les rapaces, ou détestés, tels la hyène ou le hibou, les animaux empaillés emballent les Jordanais. Fin du fin, l'aigle fondant sur le serpent. Même s'il faut payer très cher leur importation.

"Ca marche". A défaut d'être bavard, Yacoub affiche sa satisfaction. Les animaux empaillés se vendent bien. Au point d'avoir obtenu leur place dans son magasin de Djebel Amman, près du deuxième cercle. Sous les vêtements suspendus, devant les meubles à bibelots, ils font désormais partie du stock proposé à la clientèle.

"Je vends un peu de tout, selon le goût des gens. Aujourd'hui, ils désirent des animaux naturalisés, alors je m'y suis mis". Avec bonheur. "Les Jordanais aiment ça", soutient-il en montrant ses éperriers, ses colibris et un aigle importé des Etats-Unis, pièce maitresse de sa collection. Sans oublier une hyène, dissimulée sous du papier journal pour cause de mauvaise augure.

Aux prix de 10 dinars le rapace de petite taille et de 85 dinars l'aigle de chez l'Oncle Sam, les affaires de Yacoub vont bon train. Animal maudit par excellence pour ses mœurs peu orthodoxes, la hyène culmine généralement aux alentours de 120 dinars. "Cet engouement est très récent", observe-t-il. En bon commerçant, il a su saisir l'occasion d'arrondir ses fins de mois.

Maitre hondurien

Ainsi de Samir Jar. Depuis trois mois, il a troqué l'importation de voitures allemandes contre celle de carcasses d'oiseaux, de serpents, de hyènes et autres blaireaux ou renards. Bien qu'il affirme ne pas apprécier particu-



Renard fumant la pipe ou aigle menaçant, Samir Jar (à droite) empaillait les animaux importés pour la plupart de Syrie ou de Turquie.

lièrement la compagnie de ces animaux immobilisés. Samir aime son nouveau métier. "C'est un Indien du Honduras qui m'a appris à les naturaliser. Je suis resté deux mois et demi avec lui."

Fier de son apprentissage outre-atlantique, il n'éprouve guère de sympathie à l'égard de ses quelques concurrents qui se sont installés comme lui dans le vieux Amman. "La plupart ne nettoient pas les cadavres avant de

les empailler. Ils se contentent de leur injecter des produits chimiques". Les entrailles des spécimens vendus par Samir sont, pour leur part, garantis pure laine.

Dans son atelier, au dessus du magasin, les oiseaux de proie et de nombreux mammifères s'entassent dans les congélateurs. Trois heures par jour, Samir passe les gants de plastique et parfois le masque de "chirurgien" pour se

protéger des projections de formol. A l'aide de tiges métalliques, il déploie les ailes des grands rapaces, ou fait adopter à tel ou tel malheureux renard la pose discutée d'un fumeur de pipe. "Ce sont les clients qui décident", précise-t-il comme pour s'excuser. Et qui payent leur lubie entre 20 et 200 dinars.

A Zaqra, Yahia Hassan se contente de vendre les animaux qu'il achète déjà naturalisés, histoire d'éviter d'avoir à mettre la main à la paille. Exportateurs numéros un dans la région: la Turquie et le Liban. "On y trouve pratiquement tout ce qu'on veut", affirme-t-il. Samir Jar emprunte lui aussi les chemins d'Istanbul et de Beyrouth, quand ce dernier est praticable. Mais son principal fournisseur de "matière première" reste la Syrie. "J'en importe les serpents, les faucons et les hyènes", indique-t-il. Pour les aigles ou les vautours, originaires de la plupart du temps du continent américain, Samir fait appel à ses "correspondants" turcs.

Trafic

Le recours systématique aux pays étrangers s'explique par la politique jordanienne de protection de la faune nationale. Signataire en 1979 de convention internationale régissant le commerce des espèces en voie de disparition (CITES), le royaume hachémite exerce en effet un contrôle très strict sur l'ensemble du territoire. "J'ai déjà eu droit à plusieurs inspections imprévisibles," déc-

lare Samir. "Nous n'interdisons pas les importations, mais nous tentons de décourager ceux qui cherchent à introduire des espèces protégées, comme l'antilope blanche," explique Maher Z. Abou Jafar, directeur général de la Société royale de protection de la nature (SRPN). Inquiète néanmoins du développement des échanges avec la Syrie, la SRPN a demandé au gouvernement de mettre un terme à l'introduction en Jordanie d'animaux en provenance de Damas, qui n'a pas adhéré à la convention.

Malgré ces mesures, Maher Abou Jafar reconnaît qu'il est impossible d'éviter toute fraude. "Prétendre qu'il n'existe aucun trafic serait bien naïf de notre part. Mais l'étranger de notre marché nous permet de penser qu'il n'a pas l'ampleur des trafics d'animaux aux Etats-Unis ou en Europe."

Le directeur de la SRPN compte également sur la sensibilisation du public pour empêcher les importations illégales. "Nous intervenons dans les écoles, auprès des associations, pour les informer des interdictions précises-t-il. Nous essayons de leur rendre les bêtes sauvages plus familières". Avec le secret espoir de voir un jour les Jordanais réagir à leur égard avec la même affection que celle qu'ils portent à leurs compagnons domestiques et qu'ils refusent obstinément de voir trôner pitoyablement sur la télévision.

Alain Renon.

Premier colloque du CERMOC à Amman

Campagnes cherchent avenir

Les travaux du premier colloque organisé par le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain (CERMOC) depuis son installation à Amman se sont ouverts mercredi dans les locaux du Forum de la pensée arabe. Thème des débats: Les mutations récentes qu'ont connues les campagnes des pays arabes, notamment au Maroc, en Egypte, en Syrie, en Jordanie et en Arabie Saoudite. Le sociologue jordanien Suleiman Sweiss, qui intervenait hier pour une présentation générale de la situation dans le royaume hachémite, explique au Jourdain la "crise" que traverse actuellement le monde rural.

Le Jourdain: le secteur agricole s'est-il développé en Jordanie ces trente dernières années?

Suleiman Sweiss: Non, il a même régressé. Malgré trois plans successifs de développement engagés depuis 1973, l'agriculture jordanienne se trouve dans une situation plus alarmante qu'il y a trente ans. La crise économique que traverse actuellement le pays en témoigne. La chute d'environ 30% de la production céréalière durant cette période explique en partie l'accroissement de notre dette extérieure. Sur 450 000 tonnes consommées chaque année, nous ne produisons que 80 000 tonnes, soit à peine 18% de nos besoins. Autre signe inquiétant: le secteur agricole ne représentait plus que 8,5% du PNB [produit national brut] en 1985, contre 14,5% en 1972.

L.J.: Quelles sont les raisons de cette crise?

S.S.: D'abord la faible productivité du secteur primaire. Les agriculteurs sont en majorité des gens âgés, fatigués, qui ignorent les techniques modernes de production. L'irrigation par exemple se fait encore de manière archaïque. Ensuite, ou plutôt parallèlement, les questions d'héritages au sein de familles souvent très nom-

breuses ont provoqué un morcellement des terres qui bloque tout investissement productif. S'ajoute encore à ces causes, un énorme problème de commercialisation. La multiplication des intermédiaires pénalise à la fois le producteur et le consommateur. Les prix d'achat offerts aux paysans sont tellement bas, qu'ils préfèrent parfois laisser pourrir leurs récoltes. On a vu en 1981 avec la destruction de tonnes de tomates.

L.J.: La vallée du Jourdain n'offre-t-elle pas un contre-exemple?

S.S.: C'est un mythe. Le Ghor ne représente que 2,5% du PNB. A trop s'occuper de cette région, on en a oublié les terres fertiles du nord de la Jordanie, qui ne bénéficient d'aucun programme de subventions ou de développement digne de ce nom.

L.J.: Peut-on parler de paupérisation des campagnes?

S.S.: Oui. Dans une étude effectuée en 1987, 44,4% de la population rurale estimait que ses revenus agricoles étaient devenus beaucoup inférieurs à ses besoins. Seuls 11,7% les considéraient comme suffisants pour vivre. Toujours en 1987, on a observé que 70% des ruraux gagnaient



Suleiman Sweiss

moins de 120 dinars par mois. Un paysan sur cinq avait même des revenus mensuels inférieurs à 60 dinars. La dépréciation du dinar a encore aggravé la situation.

L.J.: Provoquant un fort exode rural?

S.S.: Nécessairement. Le phénomène s'est même accentué ces dix dernières années. En 1952, 62% des Jordaniens vivaient à la campagne. Ils n'étaient plus que 40% en 1979. Aujourd'hui, ils ne représentent plus que 30% de la population. Pres des deux tiers des habitants de ce pays se concentrent dans trois villes: Amman, Irbid et Zaqra. La capitale à elle seule compte 40% de la population du pays et monopolise l'activité économique, administrative et culturelle.

L.J.: Ceux qui restent dans les campagnes croient-ils à leur avenir dans l'agriculture?

S.S.: Ils sont à peu près 25% à

croire encore. C'est bien là le drame. Aujourd'hui, les deux tiers des ruraux ont changé de métier. Une majorité d'entre eux est venue gonfler les effectifs des fonctionnaires, déjà pléthoriques. A l'échelle du pays tout entier, les agriculteurs ne constituent plus que 8% de la population active, contre 33,5% il y a 25 ans.

L.J.: Et les jeunes?

S.S.: Ils partent. D'abord pour avoir plus de chance de trouver un travail. Ensuite pour gagner plus. Enfin pour échapper à une profession dure et dévalorisée. L'image du secteur agricole est tellement mauvaise que dans la vallée du Jourdain, par exemple, 80% des ouvriers sont étrangers.

L.J.: Existe-t-il un remède à cette hémorragie?

S.S.: Il faut d'une part redonner confiance aux agriculteurs, en développant leur participation directe à la gestion de leur secteur. Il faudrait notamment qu'ils puissent s'organiser pour défendre leurs intérêts au sein des coopératives. Les autorités devraient d'autre part accorder plus d'importance aux régions, qui manquent de médecins, de téléphones, de moyens de communication... et de loirs.

Propos recueillis par Alain Renon.

(*) Le colloque du CERMOC s'achève aujourd'hui autour des thèmes suivants: "Urbanisation des campagnes" (9h-12h) et "La fin des nomades?" (15h-16h30). Forum de la pensée arabe. Housing bank centre (14e étage). Entrée libre.

Au service du tiers monde

Maisons sans frontières

Une maison de 55 mètres carrés à construire en quelques jours pour un prix de 400 00 francs, tout compris; c'est ce que proposent les bénévoles venus dans le "charity business" et qu'on pourrait appeler les "architectes sans frontières".

Après les médecins, les vétérinaires, les pilotes et bien d'autres encore, des architectes et des techniciens du bâtiment proposent désormais leur savoir faire au milliard de mal logés et de sans abri dans le monde. Réunis au sein de l'association "Maisons sans frontières" (*), ils ont inventé une maison révolutionnaire.

Véritable jeu de construction, tous les éléments de l'habitation sont auto-alignants, auto-verticaux et auto-bloquants. En clair, ils s'emboîtent sans ciment ni mortier... et sans risque d'erreur. Les murs notamment, constitués d'agglomérés de 12,5 kg, peuvent être posés en un temps record.

Autre avantage: une "pierre" spéciale, qui permet de distribuer sans difficulté le courant dans toute la maison. Des tests ont enfin prouvé que l'édifice possédait une bonne isolation sonore et thermique, ainsi qu'une grande résistance aux séismes et aux cyclones.

Son prix de 40 000 francs, soit un peu plus de 700 francs par mètre carré, a été estimé en tenant compte d'un salaire horaire de 7 francs par ouvrier

Tina Dauer.

(*) "Maisons sans frontières", 8 rue de l'Est. 92100 Boulogne. France. Tél: 40 96 38.

Les Harlem Globetrotters à Amman

Match exhibition ce soir



Une fois n'est pas coutume. Les "ambassadeurs américains en sport", qui effectuent actuellement leur première tournée dans le monde arabe, se produiront ce soir au palais des Sports d'Amman. Ces géants du basket, par leur dextérité et leur taille (entre 1,90 et 2,13 mètres), qui jouent d'abord pour le plaisir, n'en sont pas moins des sportifs qui aiment gagner. Ce qui leur arrive le plus souvent: depuis la création de l'équipe le 7 janvier 1927, les Harlem Globetrotters affichent 16 550 victoires pour 16 881 matches disputés. Excusez du peu.

Si vous voulez les voir globetrotter, renseignements au 644 590. Match exhibition ce jeudi, au Sports Palace (Royal sport city) à 20h00.

Mots croisés

Par Florence Montell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: danseuses. 2: prière funéraire; pronom personnel. 3: note; relevée. 4: unit. 5: produits de la volonte. 6: le. 7: rapide; choquer. 7: on y met les bœufs; Poste de commandement. 8: ils ne comptent presque pas; lieu. 9: adjectif possessif; démonstratif. 10: article arabe; exact.

Verticalement.

A: remué. B: factice. C: note; souffrance. D: attaché; dans latin. E: soubatons. F: monarque; pronom personnel; négation. G: relations ambiguës au sein d'une famille. H: pas ailleurs. I: saison; avances comme un serpent. J: monnaie.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Hanna et ses soeurs, de Woody Allen, avec Woody Allen, Michael Caine, Mia Farrow et Carrie Fisher. Quatorzième film écrit et réalisé par Allen, consacré (qui en eut doute?) à la vie, la mort, l'amour, la famille, la religion. Centre américain, jeudi 18 et dimanche 21 mai à 19h00 (en anglais).

Bill Cosby. L'acteur américain exprime, par sketches inépuisables, l'incommensurable joie qu'il éprouve à avoir 49 ans. Et ça dure plus d'une heure. Centre américain, mardi 23 mai à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, et 21h00. Jeudi 18: Kluge; Educating Rita; Alien; Ragtime; A duel under the sun. Vendredi 19: The heart break kid; The car of living dangerously; Hanna and her sisters; Private benjamin; Anne of the thousand days. Samedi 20: The Poseidon adventure; The big shell; Room with a view; Ordinary people; They shoot horses, don't they? Dimanche 21: Fat city; Winnie; Colour of money; Gloria; The way we were. Lundi 22: Butterflies are free; A Greek cross; Purple colour; Melvin and Howard; Shambo. Mardi 23: Paper moon; Lady sings the blues; Travel with my aunt; Souther: The African queen. Mercredi 24: American graffiti; Cool mirror's daughter; Isadora; Norman Ray; Barry Lindon. Films en version originale. Tél: 643991. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche, 308 m.

Expositions

Grands projets. Du musée d'Orsay au Grand Louvre, en passant par l'Institut du monde arabe, l'Opéra de la Bastille ou encore la Cité des sciences de la Ville, l'exposition présente les grands projets

de l'Etat qui feront le Paris de l'an 2 (10). Centre culturel français, jusqu'au 20 mai.

RFA. Les paysages urbains et ruraux, les Allemands de l'Ouest, révélés par l'objectif de onze photographes de RFA, à l'occasion du 40e anniversaire de la République fédérale. Institut Goethe, du 20 au 24 mai (inauguration samedi à 17h00). Cinq films seront également projetés dimanche dans le cadre de cette exposition. Séances à 16h30 et 19h30.

Nazareth. Exposition des travaux originaux réalisés par les étudiants du collège de Nazareth. Centre culturel français du 21 au 25 mai (inauguration dimanche à 17h00).

SORTIES

Musette, avec l'accordéoniste français Jo Privat et la chanteuse Muriel, prix Edith Piaf en 1987. Centre culturel français, lundi 22 à 20h30, (7 dinars, dîner froid inclus. Réservations au 637 009).

Soirée franco-orientale, avec en première partie Jo Privat, puis en deuxième partie la danseuse Samara et la chanteuse Dalida Rahma. Le tout accompagné d'un menu français à la carte. Regency Palace Hotel, mercredi 24 mai à 22h00. Renseignements au 660 000.

TELEVISION

"Les risques du métier", d'André Cayatte, avec Jacques Brel et Emmanuelle Béart (1967). Un enseignant d'une petite ville est accusé d'abuser de ses élèves. Les jeunes adolescents continuent d'affabuler malgré les risques que leurs mensonges impliquent pour la carrière et la vie privée du jeune professeur... JTV, vendredi 19 mai à 17h30.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: ballerines. 2: oraison; te. 3: ut; épices. 4: lia. 5: efforts; Ré. 6: vif; outrer. 7: corn; PC. 8: riens; site. 9: ses; ces. 10: el; précis.

Verticalement.

A: bouleversé. B: artificiel. C: la; affres. D: lié; in. E: espérons. F: roi; tu; ne. G: ici; été; reptes. J: sesterces.

EN BREF

CCA. Les chefs d'Etat du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA), qui regroupent la Jordanie, l'Egypte, l'Irak et le Yémen du Nord, se réuniront en juin, en Egypte, après la tenue du sommet arabe extraordinaire de Casablanca le 23 mai. La conférence du CCA, initialement prévue pour le 10 mai à Alexandrie, avait été reportée à la suite du décès du ministre irakien de la Défense, le général Adnan Khairallah. Le quotidien koweïtien As-Siassa avait indiqué dimanche que la réunion pourrait se dérouler avant le sommet arabe.

Oman. Le sultan Qabous d'Oman, qui achève aujourd'hui une visite officielle en Jordanie, ne participera pas au sommet arabe extraordinaire de Casablanca, a affirmé mardi le quotidien "Oman Observer". Le souverain omanais, qui doit se rendre ensuite en Egypte, en France, en Espagne et en Grande-Bretagne, avait récemment indiqué qu'il se rendrait au Maroc "s'il y a des indices que des résultats tangibles seront obtenus". Le roi Fahd d'Arabie Saoudite avait déclaré samedi qu'il présiderait lui-même la délégation de son pays à la conférence.

Rectification. Le bilan des manifestations contre la vie chère, qui ont secoué plusieurs villes jordanienues au mois d'avril, s'établit à 11 morts (et non plus 8) et 112 blessés, selon une circulaire officielle publiée dimanche. Parmi les victimes figurent 9 civils et 2 membres des forces de l'ordre. Le nouveau bilan fait état de 67 policiers blessés, 87 véhicules détruits et 80 bâtiments publics brûlés par les manifestants. Par ailleurs, une cinquantaine de personnes ont manifesté dans le calme samedi devant la présidence du Conseil des ministres pour la libération de 73 personnes incarcérées depuis le début des émeutes.

Décès. Le poète, essayiste et scénariste égyptien Taher Abou Facha est décédé la semaine dernière au Caire. A l'âge de 81 ans, Né à Damiette, sur le delta du Nil, Abou Facha était connu de tous les lecteurs dans le monde arabe pour ses célèbres feuilletons radiophoniques des Mille et une Nuits. Il leur avait consacré plus de 800 émissions depuis les années cinquante. Son oeuvre poétique (notamment ses livrets d'opérettes) a été interprétée par les plus grands chanteurs arabes, dont Oum Khoulsoum.

Droits de l'Homme. L'ordre des avocats d'Aix-en-Provence, dans le sud de la France, vient de créer un institut des droits de l'Homme, afin de renforcer la compétence des juristes dans les différentes juridictions européennes spécialisées. L'institut, qui organisera colloques et séminaires, se réserve par ailleurs la possibilité de dénoncer les violations des droits de l'Homme et d'engager des procédures auprès des instances internationales.

Archives. Les archives turques, datant de plus de 50 ans sont désormais accessibles aux chercheurs. Selon la loi publiée vendredi à Ankara, la consultation des documents pouvant "nuire à la défense nationale (...) ou à l'ordre public" ainsi que ceux concernant "des conflits diplomatiques actuels" nécessiteront une autorisation spéciale. Les chercheurs auront accès à des photocopies ou des microfilms, dont la reproduction ou le prêt sont interdits.

Ablation. Les rhinocéros noirs de Namibie, menacés d'extinction par le braconnage, vont devoir se passer de leur corne pour survivre. Une opération consistant à couper l'appendice en question a commencé dans le nord-ouest du territoire. La poudre, fabriquée à partir de la corne de l'animal et soit disant aphrodisiaque, est en effet à l'origine de son massacre dans toute l'Afrique. Selon les vétérinaires chargés de l'opération, l'ablation se pratique "sans lésion et sans souffrance".

Porte ouverte. Les 59 passagers d'un Boeing 727 de la compagnie américaine TWA ont parcouru samedi 480 km avec une porte de l'appareil ouverte... sur le vide. L'incident n'a heureusement pas provoqué de dépressurisation de la cabine, grâce à une cloison intérieure restée intacte.



Oriental style — Drapery is news. Swiss not silk from Stehli Seiden Ag. Obfelden provides just the right fashion touch.

Swiss summer collections 1989

WHETHER it be Paris, Milan, Düsseldorf, Berlin or Munich, designers and fashion producers everywhere are — almost — unanimous: there will be no revolution! However, after a few alterations to the shapes the Swiss have spring and summer fashions that still look new. That's because new weaves, unexpected fabric combinations, novel fashion colours and a wealth of new prints bring about a change in fashion. Above all, the achievements of Swiss fabric designers and colourists produce successful, frequently enchanting ways in which fashion can be taken one step further. How does this look in detail? The further development of Christian Lacroix's style is easily detected: its spiritual home is the Provence. Indeed, this trend for 1989 is specifically entitled:

Provençal — or alternatively "Avignon"

Cotton fabrics with reworked Provence patterns play the lead role, often in pattern mix with stripes, flowered borders, pearl white St. Gall embroidery fabrics, single-colour pique, cropped spencer jackets in linen worn with billowing short skirts, corsages with facing and accentuating the bust, country pinaflore dresses with apron effects and double skirts. The colours? Ceramic blue, brick red, earth brown, ocre and spice colours, enlivened with "sun colours" such as yellow, pink and bright red. Carmen decolletes leave both shoulders bare. Three-quarters length tight pirate pants are paired with boleros borrowed from the bullfighter. Linen blouses, pique and batiste blouses, delicate "lingerie" blouses and pirate shirts in poplin are much in evidence. Flounces, fringing, embroideries, small trimmings and cordwork are all used for decoration.

High Society

Here the inspiration often

comes from the 30s: cotton satin, gabardine, poplin, linen, crepe and crepe-de-Chine, wild silk, Honan and Shantung. Then there's "washed silk", as soft to the touch as it is easily washable. Batiste, mousseline, chiffon and similar fabrics are ideal for delicate blouses embellished with filigree-fine embroideries and laces from St. Gall. There is new-found charm in combining these fabrics for classic costumes with knee-short or flowing, calf-length skirts. There are plenty of trousers, too: three-quarters, narrow trousers are "in", as are "pleated-skirt trousers" and ankle-length, wide-bottomed trousers or even fully pleated trousers worn with cardigans a la Coco Chanel's Deauville style. Pleated skirts worn with tennis style blazers, jackets featuring softer, more natural shoulders. Ties, bow ties, pocket kerchiefs or pointed collars are the dandified accessories seen here.

Sumatra

Single-colour poplins, cotton gabardine, sporty cotton satin and ribbed fabrics mixed with Madras checks, exotic prints on mixed weaves with viscose or cottons. This fashion theme frequently combines colonial sporty severity with an exotic wrap-over look: a high-necked jacket paired with jodhpur trousers, short, narrow skirts or imaginatively aproned sari skirts (knee-short or ankle-length). Bermudas, bush shirts and classic colonial costumes are shown with semi-transparent blouses.

Oriental

A magnificent, Far Eastern style starring stark Nehru jackets, tunics, tight trousers, ultra-wide trousers and draped bodices. The loveliest of brocades, floating chiffons, sheer batistes, crepes, pure silks — all in glowing "sun colours" or in blue/turquoise colourways — Publicity centre for Swiss textiles, Press Service.

Putting things in their Jordanian perspective

By P.V. Vivekanand

A Jordanian Perspective — Notes of Life and Political Development, Dr. Musa Keilani

MORE OFTEN than not, the layman reader turns to Western media interpretations, distorted or otherwise, of Jordan's viewpoints and stands on various developments in the Middle East and elsewhere in the international scene if only because very few Jordanians venture into airing in-depth objective analysis or opinion in public. Seen in this context, comments coming from a former Jordanian ambassador are highly appreciated and valued, and thus the informative and analytical value of a collection of newspaper columns penned by Dr. Musa Keilani — "A Jordanian Perspective: Notes of Life and Political Development."

Tackling a host of diversified range of issues, ranging from Islamic fundamentalism and Sufism in Jordan to superpower manoeuvres in the Middle East, the collection of 38 articles — originally published biweekly in the Jordan Times between September 1984 and August 1985 — serves as a definite pointer to the course of Jordanian thinking during that turbulent period, which witnessed the slow birth of a new Arab *modus vivendi* within the context of the Kingdom's policies as well as developments within the greater Arab world.

According to Keilani, Islamic fundamentalism in Jordan is political asset to the Kingdom as opposed to the view that it is a

destabilising factor in some of the other countries in the region. "In Jordan, Muslim fundamentalists do not feel the alienation suffered so intensely by their 'brothers' in other countries, due to the distinctive fibre of Jordan's society," he wrote in a Sept. 29, 1984 column titled "There are other things to fundamentalism." He argues that the "general pulse of the people is Islamically oriented" as a consequence of the adherence of the political leadership to the fundamental tenets of Islam and a clear-cut developmental ideology for economic planning and mass mobilisation. "The vast reservoir of political stability (fundamentalists) offer here is as uniquely distinctive as Jordan's fibre," he says.

In the same vein, in a paper he presented at a conference held in Aqaba late last year and reproduced in the collection, Keilani traces back the "unique characteristics" of Islamic fundamentalism in Jordan to the days of the late King Abdullah Ibn Hussein whose religious legacy has been nurtured by His Majesty King Hussein.

"Jordan's challenge to Israeli expansionism next door and King Hussein's grooming of a modern army to face the enemy, the geopolitical location of Jordan, the threat of common enemies both to the throne and Islamic fundamentalism as well as King

Hussein's personal charisma and special ties with his people, all contributed to create the new formula of reconciliation and coexistence," he writes. "The wise leadership and political foresight of the King preempted the birth of Islamic violence here," he adds in what could be seen as an early conviction and prediction linked, albeit indirectly, to the recent unrest in the south of the Kingdom over government austerity measures.

Apart from serving as a guide to Jordanian thinking, Keilani's writings also present what could easily be described as mainstream, moderate Arab views on various issues topical in 1984 and 1985 such as the growing pains of a new Palestinian peace strategy, American policy in the Middle East and arms sales to Arab states, the perceived Soviet "threat" to the region, the protracted Lebanese civil strife, the Sudanese link in "operation Moses" — the smuggling of Ethiopian Jews into Israel — which somehow appeared to have shocked the Arab world, Zionism and the Holy Sec, the anti-Arab media portrayals in the West, and the revolutionary brand of Islam propagated by the Khomenei regime in Tehran.

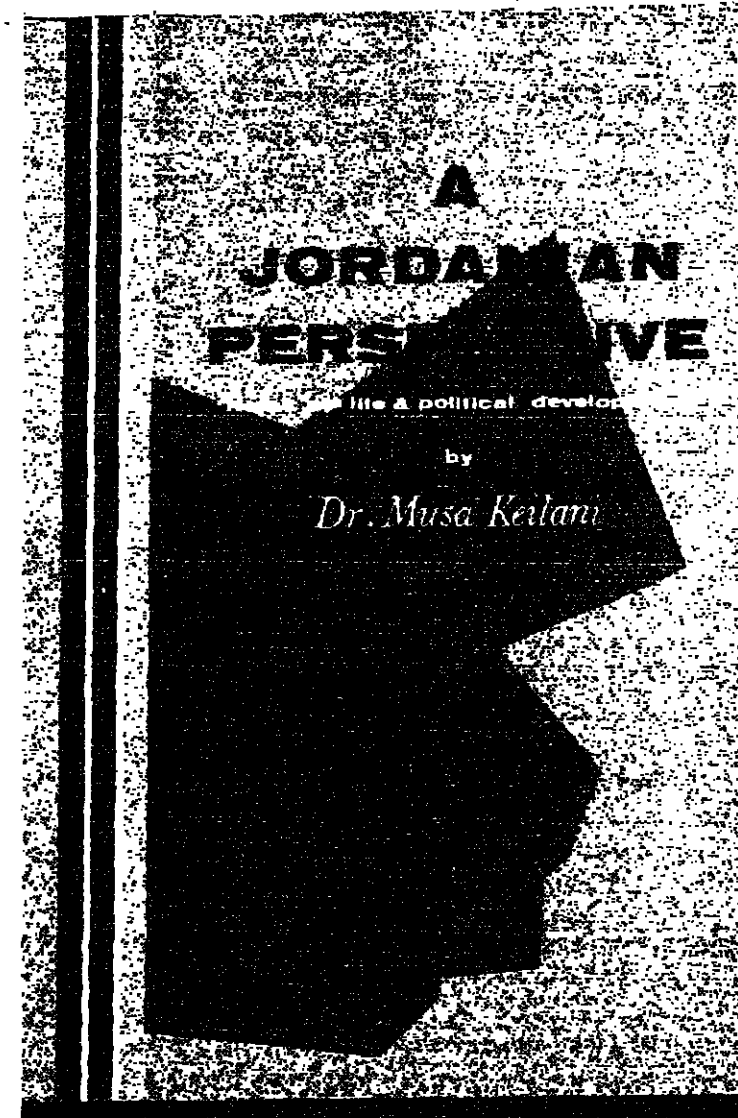
Through his columns in the Jordan Times, Keilani, who served as Jordan's ambassador to Bahrain (1975-1980) and to Sudan (1983-1985), repeatedly invited attention to the phenomenon of Jordan being a target for terrorism. In "The new evangelists of the bullet," which appeared Feb. 6, 1985, Keilani

asserted that a series of attacks against Jordanian diplomats and interests abroad were the manifestations of Tehran's anger at the Kingdom's open denunciation of Iranian killings of Iraqi prisoners of war. He substantiates the argument by pointing out instances where "vengeful" Khomenei had decreed the death of many who dared to criticise him, in public or otherwise.

According to Keilani, the clandestine "Islamic Jihad," which claimed the killing of Jordanian diplomat Ziad Sati in Ankara in July 1985, "is a manifestation of Iran's terror in the area" and "its targets are not confined to Palestinians in Lebanon, or Jordanian diplomats, or Iraqi targets. But includes some Saudi and Kuwaiti targets."

Detailing the series of attacks on Jordanian diplomats and other targets — beginning with the assassination bid against the Kingdom's ambassador to India in October 1983 to an attack on a Jordanian diplomat in Athens in November 1984 and the murder of Charge d'Affaires Azmi Al Mufti in Bucharest in December 1984 — Keilani poses a hypothetical but provocative question: "The last two crimes were not claimed by any Arab front: Could it have been the same Islamic Jihad?"

Though it cannot be sweepingly said that "A Jordanian Perspective" represents a fully endorsed official thinking in the Kingdom — in light of the controversial nature of the topics discussed by the author in his



columns — there is little doubt that 92-page book could easily serve as a documented version of how senior Jordanian bureaucrats and diplomats with access to discreet information interpret events and situation and formulate viewpoints. On a different level, it could also be seen as reflecting the line of thoughts of a highly sensitive Jordanian Arab who

struggles hard to confine his views to moderate and objective lines but feels frustrated over the negativism and extremism brought into the Middle East by outside political forces. The obvious avenue out is an attempt to put things in their right perspective — and thus "A Jordanian Perspective: Notes of Life and Political Development."

Poor poor Gordon — a rich boy's story



Gordon and his wife Ann in their San Francisco mansion.

POOR Gordon, you want to sigh, after hearing about him locking his keys in the car with the engine running, or how he forgot his car was at Los Angeles International Airport for six months, or the rumour that he forgot he was giving a dinner one night, wandered out of the house to get a hamburger and just got back as his party was ending. But you can't sigh "poor Gordon" once you know his surname. It is Getty, and Gordon is far from poor.

Wealthy Gordon, then, Scion of J. Paul Getty. Some people think he has a screw loose. Some people think he is brilliant. He thinks he's a little absent-minded. What he is — filthy rich. Personal worth: A billion and change. He turns over a cool \$250,000 a day just in interest. He lives on a hill in San Francisco in a house this size of a department store. Does with his days precisely what he wants to do with his days. And is full of himself lately.

What Gordon Getty does with his days and why he is so full of himself have a lot to do with each other. He composes serious music. At present he is reworking an opera called "Plump Jack," based on Shakespeare's "Henry IV."

There will be another performance on July 4 at the Spoleto festival in Italy. It has already been performed as a work in progress, by the Los Angeles opera and the San Francisco Symphony. At 55, Gordon Getty is a busy and happy man.

"At 28," wrote Gordon's mother, Ann Rork, J. Paul's fourth wife, "Gordon has retained the perspective of an eight-year-old." Business associates never quite figured where Gordon was coming from, as they put it, and they called it "the whimsical factor."

Gordon concedes the charges. "I don't think I was cut out to be a business executive," he says. "My critics on the Getty board are right about that. We all have long and short suits. Composition and economic theory seem to be my long ones and administration seems to be my short one."

To prove the point, this billionaire who flunked the only economics course he ever took at the University of San Francisco is publishing a paper called "The Hunt form: One-Factor and Transfer Theories," a dense thesis that Roger Masters, chairman of the government department at Dartmouth, calls "One of the most original works on economics that I've seen in a long time."

Gordon looks at these things from outside the academic community and, like Darwin with biology, sees things that he might not see had been more trained. It is just one more reason Gordon is feeling so good at the moment.

Getty was directionless for a long, long time. "If I had died ten years ago," he says, "I don't know what you would have put on my tombstone. But now I, do." There was one period when he set himself the task of cracking complicated municipal planning and traffic-flow problems on a primitive computer.

After watching a TV show about anthropologist Louis Leakey,

he plunged headlong into the study of the origins of man, becoming in the bargain a consequential financial supporter of the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, the Jane Goodall Institute and the San Francisco Zoo. "For the hell of it," he says, he took up the study of physics, passing a freshman final exam at Berkeley.

Submerged talent

In the late 1970s, the passionate interest in composing that he had had as young man returned. Once Getty Oil was disposed of — a controversial, much publicised move that wound up tangled in the federal courts, and brought about the breakup of the \$4 billion Sarah C. Getty Trust, so named for his grandmother — he was free to hole up with his black Yamaha grand piano in the soundproof music room of his five-story, neoclassical mansion. And that is where we found him, an astonishingly shy man, to say nothing of detached.

To get in Gordon's place, one must first get past "Mr. Bullimore" the English butler who has been with the family for 30 years (he was originally with J. Paul, and before that with John Kennedy's father when he was ambassador to the court of St. James's). Bullimore is part of a staff that includes another butler, two maids, two secretaries, a cook, a laundress, a handyman and a slew of full-time, around-the-clock security people — it will be remembered that Gordon's nephew, J. Paul Getty III, lost an ear after being kidnapped in Rome in 1973.

These employees attend to Gordon, Ann, 47, his wife of 25 years, and their four sons, 23, 21, 20 and 18. The house itself full of furniture that is ornate, and eclectic jumble of antiques from England, India and France. Works by Degas, Manet and Monet hang on the walls. Beyond the windows, San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge so dominate that people feel the impulse of gush.

As far as Bullimore is concerned, there is but one feature of the house he could live without. The dining room is lit entirely by candles, scores of candles on sconces, dozens on a giant, 19th century Russian chandelier. At dinner, clumps of wax pop and fly around the room.

No one save Bullimore, who is also in charge of candles, seems to notice. They have to be changed for every dinner. "There are so many of them," he says, "it takes most of a day to replace them. We have to bring in someone specially to do it."

"I'm little like Don Quixote," Gordon volunteers, during a break in his work. "I am only marginally connected to this century." In a ruminative mood, he says that his goal, in addition to being the heir of Bach and Beethoven, is to win the Nobel Prize in economics. "You have to aim for the best," he says. "I believe that the age of the armchair amateur isn't over, despite what we see in the world around us. I still believe there is room for the little

boy in the fairy tale "The Emperor's New Clothes."

He reflects that he might someday buy a company, then thinks better of it. "It would not be as exciting the second time. It might also not be as appropriate for me to have any more. Anyway, composers are remembered by posterity while businessmen are forgotten."

Composing all day

He composes all day, every day, starting about seven in the morning, sometimes feeling robbed when he has to pause to eat. His music goes to bed with him in his head — much to his wife's discomfort. "Unfortunately, he often composes through the night by clicking his teeth together," Ann Getty says. "Very annoying." "That and the occasional atrocious act of absent-mindedness."

He does not smoke and does not drink to speak of. His half brother George died of a drug overdose. His brother, Paul, is a recovering heroin addict whose second wife died of an overdose. Another half brother, Ronald, lost out on the family fortune because J. Paul, then America's richest man, felt Ronald's mother took him to the cleaners in the divorce. Given the family's turbulent history, it could be that the key to Gordon's survival has been his above-it-all spaciness.

Indeed, the Gordon Getty family is a lot more stable than the family Gordon Getty came from. In 1985 Ann became owner of Grove Press and Weidenfeld and Nicolson in New York. One of San Francisco's most indefatigable hostesses, despite her husband's indifference to such affairs, she says she finds publishing a delight because she was reared to believe there was "something wrong with just reading. You should be working. Now I can do both at the same time. I no longer have to feel guilty about just sitting around reading all day."

Once a week she takes the family's two-bedroom, one-bath Boeing 727 to New York for meetings. Occasionally she takes the same plane to Paris to shop.

As for their sons, she says, "I can guarantee you that they're all taking their time growing up." Peter, the oldest, just graduated from Harvard. Asked recently what he was going to do, he said, "Nothing — until somebody notices." His mother said, "Well, we've noticed, and he's going to get a job."

Meanwhile, back at the grand piano, the country's wealthiest composer is allowing himself a moment of sweetness and light. "I'm very grateful for the diversity in my life and the fact that in the last five or ten years I've had a real sense of accomplishment and achievement. I was by no means an unhappy man ten years ago. My life had been a lot of fun. But right now I feel like you're supposed to feel in your twenties when you're getting out of school and gazing at new horizons. There's a lot of room to grow. It's very exciting."

— The Kuwait Times

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Focus on People

Abu Ghneims — honey as a cure

By Mariam M. Shahin

THIS WEEK Deeb Abu Ghneim and his wife "Umm Mohammad" who head a family of Jordanian honey growers, talk to Focus on People about how to live longer by using natural medicines.

To the people of Sweise, a village close to Mahes, a few kilometers outside Amman, Deeb Abu Ghneim is known simply as Abu Mohammad. As a respected member of his community, he has become a local patriarch in the village where his forefathers have lived for many generations. In his mid-40s, and a father of 12 — seven girls and five boys — Abu Ghneim has spent most of his life serving the Jordanian Armed Forces. Some 15 years ago he decided to pursue more seriously his hobby of making honey for his family. It started in the afternoon with his wife, Umm Mohammad, and his mother, Umm Deeb, began planting honey-friendly flowers in the family garden. Then shortly afterwards Abu Ghneim visited the Ministry of Agriculture and applied for a licence to produce honey for commercial use. After granting a permit, the Ministry of Agriculture also provided the Abu Ghneims with bee boxes.

"That's how we began," recalls Abu Ghneim. "Now we have 30 boxes, back then we only had two." Each bee box, as it is called, can produce up to 24 kilograms of honey per season. Umm Mohammad explains: "Many honey producers 'create' four, five or six production seasons. The quality of the honey depends on the nourishment the bees receive and the interval between each season. Every other cycle should be left to the bees, so that they can benefit from the honey as well. Anything overproduced will fail to live up to quality standards." Abu Ghneim's honey is produced from orange, lemon and jawaia blossoms. "They also have some land in the northern Shuneh entirely dedicated to honey production."

When the Abu Ghneims refer to honey they do not use the Arabic word 'asal', they use the word 'elaje', meaning remedy or cure. Honey in general explains Abu Ghneim is not used as a substitute sweetener for sugar, but rather as medicine for sore throats, colds, drowsiness and other conditions of low-energy levels.

As Abu Ghneim explains, "people in Sweise rely on natural remedies, such as zatar, cumin, anise, sage and other natural plants that they grow in their backyards. "We use medicines only when we have given up hope on all our natural remedies. It is the way we have always done things and it has always worked for us, there is no reason to change."

According to Abu Ghneim, "honey is one of our remedies and that is why we are producing it."

He says that their honey is expensive but "pure and worth it." "People from all over bring us honey that they feel is impure and ask us to check its quality. Some of the jars don't contain more than ten per cent honey; the rest sugar and water."

"We charge JD 8 per kilogramme and a lot of people think that's expensive, but they are getting the best for their money," Abu Ghneim adds.

The Abu Ghneims have a long clientele list, but large quantities are bought mostly by Bahrainis, Kuwaitis and Saudis who visit Jordan on a regular basis. The family sometimes sell up to 30 or 35 kilogrammes at a time to these foreign visitors.

Abu Ghneim has not considered marketing his product in the capital's stores and supermarkets, because, he explains, "this is not a supermarket product, this is 'elaje'. He hopes, however, to print labels with a small map to his home and the family name to make his jars as well as his honey distinct from others."

"We are all working on this project; in the afternoon and Umm Mohammad and the children during the day. We got running water, electricity, and telephones two years back. The roads are being paved as well. Transportation to our area is becoming easier and that removes half the problems that some people were having in getting to us."

This week Abu Ghneim's eldest son, Mohammad, is getting married. All Sweise will attend the wedding. "We have a big family; we have lots of children yes, but our old don't die young of ailments. When they die, they die of old age. They know what's good for them 'the elaje'," asserts Abu Ghneim.

Stones don't feel grief: big families in Bolivia

By Susanna Rance

WE walk over ploughed land to a thatched adobe house, abandoned during most of the day while the family works in the fields. Several adjoining rooms surround a dusty yard, all merging into the grayish-brown landscape of the Bolivian Altiplano, stretching out towards snow-capped mountain ranges.

Don Nicasio fetches the hand mirror to call his wife across the fields, catching the sun's reflection in the glass until she sees it glinting and hurries back. Taking off her bowler hat and heavy load, Dona Maria settles down with her memories, the forceful Aymara phrases translated into Spanish by her husband.

"I'm 46 years old. I've got two brothers and a sister living. There were two girls and three boys that died. Some of them, when they were little, from yellow fever ... others when they were quite big."

"When I got married I hoped to have only two or three children. I wanted them to study, not be like us. I've suffered a lot here and I want my kids to have a better life, working so they can support themselves."

Don Nicasio takes over: "I, on the other hand, wanted to have a more regular-sized family: five children, three sons and two daughters. In the end, we had seven, but only four are living. Our first child was a girl, born a year after we married. Two years later we had another daughter. It was a very difficult birth, here at home, with no-one to help. She was very tiny. All that first year, she was poorly, then she died. Some illness. I don't know what it could have been ... I didn't have enough money to take her to a doctor in La Paz."

"When our eldest daughter was already running around we had a little boy. He was all right, he lived. Then a year later another son, but he died. You know what it was? Larva, we call it. It was my own fault, my carelessness. His mother was pregnant, and she went past a place where there was a dead dog. If you're unwell like that, and you look at a decomposing animal, it makes

the child ill inside the mother. The baby was born weak. He couldn't move his limbs, he was always lethargic. Then he died."

"We lost another daughter like that. She was three. Just imagine ... If I'd taken care of their mother and watched out where she went, I'm sure my children would still be alive. But what can you do, when it's too late."

"We had two more sons. The youngest is nine now, he's just starting primary school. When he was born, we thought, 'Maybe this one is going to die too.' I just prayed for him to live. We're not free, God sustains our life, so we left it to His will."

"In the end, our youngest survived, and the others were already growing. I said to my wife, 'That's it. That's our family.' And we decided not to have any more kids, and just try to get those four through school."

"The thing is to have 'some children, but not too many, not too few. If we had no kids, who would keep us company, who would help us? One tills the land, one herds the cows, another looks after the sheep, another goes for water."

"I'm tired now, I'm getting on in years. No doubt my children will look after me, just as I've cared for them since they were tiny. We aren't born working, are we? Someone has to bring us up. Our mother carries us on her back, our father raises us till we are big. Isn't that right? So now, I reckon, they're going to look after me. That's my plan."

Dona Maria adds: "When I lost my children I wished I could die too. I'd see other kids their age and think of mine, how they would have been walking and talking, I wanted to go far away, somewhere else, to forget. So we went to farm in the Yungas valleys. We stayed there for ten years, until our daughter finished her schooling."

"I cried and cried for my children, for three to four years. I'd still be crying, any time of day, if it weren't for the stones." The stones? The stones I carry against my stomach so as not to grieve. (UNFPA)

Redgrave — effortless superiority

Vanessa Redgrave is rebuffed in the U.S. for her political views, though she is perhaps the greatest actress in the English-speaking world

By William A. Henry III

On the day Vanessa Redgrave entered the world, her father Michael Redgrave was playing Laertes opposite Laurence Olivier's Hamlet at London's Old Vic Theatre. During the curtain call, Olivier gestured for silence and announced, "Ladies, and gentlemen, tonight a star is born. Laertes has a daughter." Olivier probably thought he was being gracious, rather than oracular. But the man generally acknowledged as the greatest actor in the English-speaking world proved as inspired in his fortune telling as in his art: the infant born Jan. 30, 1937, has ripened into perhaps the greatest actress in the English-speaking world. Her trophies include the Oscar, U.S. television's Emmy and London's equivalent of Broadway's Tony (appositely named for Olivier himself). She also has a prize even more important to her: the awestruck regard of everyone in her craft.

Redgrave has taken on the unlikeliest of roles, from a shaven-headed musician in the Auschwitz women's orchestra "Playing for Time" to the transsexual physician Renee Richards "Second Serve" to her current London stage triumph as a thickly accented daughter of an Italian immigrant in the steamy American Southland of Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending." Her fragile beauty cast her as Sir Thomas More's daughter in "A Man For All Seasons" and as Isadora Duncan, Mary Queen of Scots and Guinevere. Her toughness made her an anti-Nazi adventurer in "Julia" and a fierce literary agent in "Pick Up Your Ears." Onstage in the summer of

1966 in London, she demonstrated her range by alternating as the worldly queen in "Antony and Cleopatra" and the humiliated, housebound maiden in "Taming of the Shrew." If anything linked the two repertory roles, it was only the pained look they shared, that unforgettable Redgrave gaze from those grave and piercing eyes as they take in the unimaginable perfidy of the world.

However offbeat the part, Redgrave never camps up a performance, never tips the audience the equivalent of a wink to distance herself from neurotic excess: she gives every character she plays her loyalty and respect. No matter how far away in time or place the story's environs, Redgrave makes her character's emotional life completely accessible to contemporary audiences, without resorting to the star-trunk trick of finding herself in — or imposing herself on — the role. Trying to puzzle out just how she achieves this artless naturalness, fellow actors scrutinize her performances. Says playwright-director David Hare, who starred Redgrave in his movie "Wetherby": "She's the one they all watch. Her gift is emotion and exceptional lucidity of thought. Vanessa has an access to her feelings without parallel. She is the least flustered, most completely focused actress — she barely needs to study a part."

Redgrave may not have the mutability of face or gift for accents of Meryl Streep, nor the Everywoman earthiness of fellow Briton Judi Dench. Her voice is not so distinctive as Katharine Hepburn's or so melodious as Diana Rigg's, and compared with



Vanessa Redgrave

the artistry of Kate Nelligan, Redgrave's technique can look raw. But for spontaneity and sheer emotional truth, for acting that enables audiences to make the ultimate leap and forget they are watching a performance, Redgrave has few if any rivals of either sex.

While unstinting passion onstage has earned her a glowing reputation, the same unstinting passion offstage has sharply limited her opportunities. A fervid member of a radical splinter group called the Marxist Party, she has poured much of her income into its causes and four times stood as a candidate for Parliament representing the Workers Revolutionary Party. Directors and producers seeking to engage her have learned that, no matter how enticing the role or how fat the fee, professional commitments must be fitted around her political crusading. Coupled with a tendency, common among actresses, to flirt with more projects than she commits to, plus what one director terms her reluctance to "get to her starting gate," Redgrave's plethora of political commitments

can give a producer a headache. But in London at least, the results are considered well worth the wait. And while the British press often lampoons and lambastes her, British audiences, even if sceptical of her views, seemingly admire the courage of her convictions. In any case, they are delighted to watch her work.

In the U.S. story is different: Redgrave's support of the Palestinian cause has rendered her persona non grata in Hollywood, where she has not made a film since Yanks in 1979, and on Broadway, where she last appeared in 1977 in Isben's "The Lady from the Sea." Other actors report that merely suggesting she be cast is enough to damage their own careers. On the rare occasion when she does land a U.S. job, there is almost always a fuss. Protest nearly cost her the Emmy-winning lead role in the TV drama "Palying for Time." Fear of an outcry was allegedly cited by Broadway producers in ruling out a role for her in Hare's "Plenty" in 1982, according to a prominent producer, the same concern contributed to a decision by Jerome Minskoff, a co-producer of Redgrave's current "Orpheus" in London, to refuse to finance a proposed transfer to Broadway. The losers, even more than Redgrave, are audiences — not only in the U.S. but also, because of her exclusion from widely distributed big-budget studio films, everywhere else in the world.

In one of the most sharply drawn instances of the de facto boycott, threats led the Boston Symphony Orchestra to dump Redgrave from a 1982 series of performances narrating Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex." She brought a civil rights suit asking punitive damages for the harm to her reputation. "In a free society," her attorneys argued on appeal to

the U.S. Supreme Court, "people's livelihoods should not depend upon their holding 'correct' political views as defined either by their government or by their employer." To her dismay but not surprise, the Supreme Court declined to take the case and let stand a lower-court judgment withholding any punitive award. Redgrave was granted \$39,500 to cover her actual lost employment — an amount considerably smaller than her legal fees.

Redgrave's problems in Hollywood date to the night in 1978 when she received her Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress for "Julia." Militant Jewish groups picketed outside the theatre, protesting her involvement with a pro-Palestinian documentary film that she financed by selling her house in Britain. Redgrave judiciously answered the picketers in an acceptance speech televised worldwide. Her words were apparently meant to refer to the protest but were widely misunderstood to damn all Jews. Praising Academy voters, she said, "You have stood firm and refused to be intimidated by a small band of Zionist hoodlums who have insulted Jews all over the world in their struggle against fascism and Nazism." Heard out of context, the phrase gave birth to an apparently incredible belief that Redgrave regarded all Jews as hoodlums, and from that arose the virtual ban on her employment.

Even among those who comprehend her position — that the Palestinians have a right to a homeland and that there must be accommodation by Israel — the common inclination is to pass her by for the sake of convenience. Some potential employers fear for the physical security of any

facility at which her work is seen. Others are concerned that her unpopularity might rub off onto any project she joins. And for some, the issue is just as Redgrave describes it: a desire to punish her, or at least deprive her of a visible platform, for views regarded as objectionable.

When the lights go back up, however, Vanessa Redgrave is Lady from the Sea. Audiences accustomed to that haunted Redgrave stare see it anew in this portrayal of a woman who has lived half a lifetime with memories of her father's agonising death by fire, only to suffer the belated discovery that her husband led the band of killers. Yet there is nothing histrionic in Redgrave's inhabitation of the part, no breast beating or teeth clenching. Infatuation with a mysterious young newcomer makes her faintly schoolgirlish. Pregnancy gives her an inner glow. A plan for revenge on her husband sets her eyes aglitter. But the shifts are subtle, the character's mood lightly ironic. Redgrave's Lady greets even her own violent death with a Mona Lisa smile of sad amusement and, as she crumples to the floor, a shrug. The play's climactic image is of her lower being carried, naked and screaming, to be murdered with a blowtorch. Yet what lingers in spectators' minds is the last glimpse of Redgrave, all the more poignant for the utter lack of any plea for sympathy. That is the public figure as much as the actress and the character: unapologetic, unrelenting and determined to the end to do things her way. For anyone else, Orpheus would be the performance of a career. For Redgrave, it is just another luminous interlude in a life-time of incandescence. — Reported by Anne Constable/London and Elaine Dutka/Los Angeles, Time.

Pornography market — a big hit at Cannes festival

By Simon Haydon
Reuters

CANNES, France — The pornographic film industry has come out into the open at the Cannes Film Festival, advertising itself as a multi-million dollar industry that is growing rapidly.

The growth has been more pronounced in such parts of the world as western Europe, Asia and Latin America, pornographic film producers and agents say. They said that concern that pornography corrupts seemed to have disappeared.

"We don't even see the anti-porn movement any more. It's gone out of style," said Dutch porn merchant Betty Geerts at her stand at the film market which is held every year in conjunction with the film festival.

Geert told Reuters in an interview that pornography was also becoming "harder" as limits of what is acceptable were relaxed. Geert is the only European pornography dealer represented at Cannes, with all other producers and distributors from the United States.

"About 80 per cent of the world's porno films come from the U.S. these days," said Montgomery Scott, of Los Angeles-based Antigua Productions.

The pornographic film industry has changed radically in recent years with the widespread introduction of video cassettes.

Back-street cinemas showing 35 millimetre pornographic films, often condemned as sordid businesses linked with organised crime, and prostitution, are closing down as pornography enters the home.

"People want to watch these movies in the privacy of their own homes. It's where sex should be, in the bedroom, rather than in a cinema hall with 50 other people," said a spokesman for another U.S. film company, Calvista Films.

"Twenty years ago all these films were made in 35mm, but video is cheaper and it's what the customer wants," he added.

A 35mm pornographic film costs about \$75,000 to make, while videos are shot for as little as \$15,000, giving huge returns for distributors.

In Western Europe, the biggest market outside the U.S., American producers said legislation

varied greatly, and some countries were still "no-no" areas for many films.

"Britain is a big no-no for us, and Italy has suddenly cracked down, although Germany, France and Spain are all pretty easy-going," said Scott.

The pornography stands at the industry fair at Cannes appeared to be by far the busiest among more than 100 stalls, with trade customers queuing to order the latest titles.

Amsterdam-based Geert, who said Dutch anti-pornography legislation was virtually non-existent, said traditional definitions of "soft" and "hard" pornography had changed radically.

Most pornographic films today are filmed in "soft" and "hard" versions, but traditional soft pornography which involved simple nudity had gone out of fashion, she added.

"The new soft porn is what used to be known as hard porn, with the full sexual act being shown, and hard porn is now what we call 'specialist' subjects," she said, without elaborating.

U.S. film makers interviewed in Cannes said American legislation was much tougher, and there were reports that it could be made illegal to shoot "hard" pornography.

American producers said pornography remained socially unacceptable in the U.S., although conditions in which the industry worked had changed.

"The girls coming into the porn industry these days are beautiful and could be professional models. This industry pays well," said Scott, pointing to dozens of video-cassette covers portraying scantily-clad women.

The American pornography producers said they had strict limits, and would not involve themselves in child pornography or bestiality.

Geert said European tastes were different, and child pornography was the only remaining taboo.

Pornography merchants at Cannes denied there was any link between their industry and organised crime. "There's been a lot of talk about organised crime, and it may have been true a few years ago. But as porn becomes more acceptable and mainstream, ordinary commercial people have taken over," Geert added.

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Independent oil countries renew pledge to help OPEC on prices

LONDON (R) — Ten oil nations outside OPEC have pledged continued cooperation with the group to buoy prices, but difficult decisions lie ahead on how to achieve this.

Officials of the non-OPEC group, which includes such heavyweights as the Soviet Union and Mexico, met in London Tuesday.

They rejected market suggestions that they might not have fully implemented export curbs which they pledged for April-June to reinforce OPEC supply restraint and help boost prices.

"The actual reduction in exports in April was considerably in excess of the approximately 300,000 barrels per day (b/d) to which they were committed..." a communiqué said.

It also said "continued cooperation among all oil exporting nations is an essential element for oil market stability."

But as market analysts expected, there was no decision on the tricky issues of whether to extend the present export restraint beyond June and, if so, how much oil to shut in.

Hermann Franzen, economic adviser to Oman, said: "You cannot make decisions on output in advance of events."

A signal event will be an OPEC conference in Vienna on June 5 which must set the group's own output ceiling for the second half of 1989, with several members anxious to raise it from the present 18.5 million b/d in line with

stronger demand.

Oil analysts say non-OPEC nations will be reluctant to let OPEC take all this extra demand and delegates said the group is also concerned by industry reports that OPEC is exceeding its current ceiling.

But it would be reluctant to signal to a jittery oil market that cooperation with OPEC is over.

Oil prices are up sharply since a glut last autumn, from around \$13 a barrel to just above \$20 for the benchmark U.S. crude, West Texas Intermediate.

OPEC supply curbs, despite leakage on mandatory quotas, are chiefly responsible together with accidents that cut Alaskan and North Sea output. But news in February that the non-OPEC group pledged to cut exports also helped the rally.

Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, North Yemen, Oman and the Soviet Union form the non-OPEC group.

The Soviet Union, the biggest oil producer and the biggest exporter outside OPEC, officially takes part as an observer, as do Colombia, Norway and North Yemen.

But the Soviet Union pledged to cut exports in this quarter while Norway says it is restraining

expansion of its output.

The non-OPEC officials were joined by observers from Texas and Alaska and Canada's Alberta province.

Britain, where they met, refuses to join. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government says market forces must determine oil prices.

As to the energy policies of the United States, the head of OPEC said earlier that OPEC is willing to guarantee an uninterrupted supply of oil to the United States but wants to see an end to confrontational policies that jeopardise cooperation.

"In truth, we have difficulty in understanding the confrontational attitudes of certain countries as expressed in such practices as trade barriers, oil taxes and oil import fees aimed at subsidising the high cost of oil," OPEC General-Secretary Subroto said.

Addressing a group of business leaders at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Subroto said, "a confrontational situation is to the advantage of neither

group."

While he refused to "point fingers" by naming the United States as one of the countries that have set policies opposed to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he noted that the United States consumes one-third of the world's oil produced outside the communist bloc.

"This is the biggest oil market of all," he said. "But while the U.S. consumption of oil is increasing, its production is falling steadily."

"This development has given rise to repeated calls for a federal energy policy, in the interests of national security," Subroto said.

"OPEC is both willing and able to meet U.S. oil requirements, as we have done in the past," Subroto said in his first major address in the United States since becoming the OPEC general-secretary last July.

He said the United States and other major consumers of OPEC oil should trust the group because they have mutual interests in free



Subroto

trade.

"It should not be forgotten that OPEC countries are major importers of most of the goods and services they require," Subroto said.

"Thus a large part of the revenues they derive from their oil, the so-called petrodollars, are ploughed into the economies of the consuming countries through imports," he said.

"Just as OPEC countries have experienced drastic decreases in their oil revenues (as the price of oil has fallen), so too have the consuming countries felt the impact of reduced export orders from OPEC," he said.

U.S. trade deficit surprises Wall Street

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to \$8.86 billion in March from a revised \$9.82 billion in February, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Exports jumped 7.4 per cent to a record \$30.78 billion in March, outpacing a three per cent rise in imports to \$39.64 billion, the department said.

The improvement in the March deficit surpassed Wall Street expectations and was even more dramatic considering that the February shortfall was revised downward from the previously reported \$10.50 billion.

The dollar and bonds jumped on the news of the better than expected trade figure.

The March increase in exports, the first since December, was broadly based and included a surge in shipments of manufactured goods, while the import rise was made up mostly of industrial supplies and oil, the department said.

Despite the latest deficit reduction, most economists doubt that

the country can come close this year to matching the dramatic 1988 improvement in the trade balance when the deficit fell to \$11.76 billion from a record \$152.12 billion in 1987.

In the first quarter of 1989 the deficit was a seasonally adjusted \$27.36 billion compared with \$32.75 billion in the same period of 1988, the government said.

Until March, export growth had tapered off substantially beginning in the latter part of 1988 as the value of the dollar rebounded over the past several months. That ended a three-year period of decline during which American goods became cheaper overseas.

Also hindering trade-balance progress has been a steady climb in imports, despite signs that the U.S. economy has been slowing in recent months, which should

reduce Americans' demand for foreign goods.

A sharp jump in the price of oil has also slowed progress. America's oil bill rose more than \$450 million to \$3.74 billion in March, reflecting a 7.3 per cent rise in the volume of imported oil and a jump in the average price to \$15.97 a barrel from \$15.08 in February and \$13.10 in December.

The United States had a trade surplus with Western Europe in March of \$397 million, the largest in six years.

The deficit with Japan, Washington's biggest trade problem, fell slightly to \$4.22 billion in March from \$4.65 billion in February, the department said.

The deficit with the newly industrialising nations of South East Asia also declined to \$1.16 billion from \$1.77 billion.

WPP buys Ogilvy for \$864m

NEW YORK (AP) — The head of Ogilvy Group Inc. said Tuesday he investigated every reasonable alternative but could not find anything to beat WPP Group PLC's record \$864 million buyout offer for the advertising giant.

Kenneth Roman, Ogilvy's chairman, said he also was confident there would be few if any client defections in the wake of the buyout agreement reached late Monday, under which Ogilvy's board unanimously approved WPP's proposal for a \$54 share tender offer for all of Ogilvy's stock.

Martin Sorrell, chief executive of London-based WPP, said at a news conference that he intended to keep Ogilvy and its manage-

ment intact. As part of the deal, he signed an agreement that guarantees Ogilvy will be run autonomously.

The deal, the largest takeover ever in the advertising business, comes less than two years after WPP broke onto the U.S. advertising scene with a hostile \$566 million buyout of the parent of another huge ad agency, J. Walter Thompson. The Thompson buyout had been the previous ad industry record.

The addition of Ogilvy, the world's fifth-largest advertising company, to the arsenal at WPP, the third-largest ad concern last year, creates the world's second largest advertising and marketing services company.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEFS

Jordan impounds 'unfit' meat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian authorities have intercepted a consignment of meat destined for Iraq and stopped the shipment after discovering that its contents were unfit for human consumption. A report in Al Dustour daily said that the consignment, weighing 1000 tonnes, had been imported by a Jordanian merchant for Iraqi markets. Upon examination, the meat was found to be bad and could not be used for human consumption and the authorities had ordered the importer to either return the shipment or destroy it. The paper said that the order for checking the meat was given by Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub who was quoted as saying that any contaminated or bad consignments of any sort of foodstuffs will not be allowed to be marketed in Jordan nor be passed on to an Arab country. The minister pointed out that meat imported by Jordan from other countries through Jordanian merchants undergo laboratory tests to ensure that it is fit for consumption.

Rumours spark Soviet 'salt boom'

MOSCOW (R) — Rumours of shortages have sparked mass salt buying in Moscow since the May Day holidays, the trade union daily Trud has said. "The reasons for the 'salt boom' in the capital are caused, undoubtedly, by rumours of its being in short supply," Trud said. "Judging objectively from the facts, traders themselves are gaining from the rumours." Traders had got rid of their salt stock and emptied warehouses, it added. The head of a Moscow food store, interviewed by Trud, said salt was always stacked in one corner of his shop. "But when I came back from the holiday I couldn't believe my eyes: The grocery section, which was always filled with packets of salt, had emptied," he said. There have recently been shortages of toothpaste, soap and washing detergent and sugar is now rationed in Moscow for the first time since the late 1940s.

Algeria begins contacts on gas

KUWAIT (AP) — Algeria is establishing contacts with five European countries to supply them with Algerian gas through a projected 3,000-kilometre pipeline. Algerian Oil Minister Sadeq Bousenna told the daily Al Qabas. The pipeline will also pass through Moroccan territory, said Bousenna in the interview. The project initially involves France, Spain and Britain, but might be expanded to include West Germany and Portugal, he said. "European countries are showing interest in the project in the light of the deficiency in nuclear projects and the growing tendency to depend on natural gas as a source of clean energy," he said. Bousenna said that international oil companies which boycotted Algeria in the past few years "have now changed their mind and that four contracts were signed over the past few months with Italian, French and Spanish companies for oil exploration in Algeria." He added: "We are also establishing contacts with American companies to carry out oil exploration activity in Algeria."

China lacks cash to buy grain

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government will not have enough money to pay farmers for their summer grain and oil-bearing crops, meaning that farmers may not have funds to plant the important fall crop, an official newspaper has said. The People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) quoted officials from the ministry of commerce and agricultural bank as saying the government needs 20 billion yuan (\$5.4 billion) to pay for summer grain and crops such as linseed, soybeans and peanuts, but only has half that amount. It said farmers will not have funds for fall planting if they are forced to accept scrip or IOUs for their crop. Last year local agricultural banks, many suffering from bad management or excessive issuing of credit to rural enterprises, drew sharp protests from farmers when they paid for grain with IOUs.

Jordan, Syria to examine joint industrial plans, budget next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Syrian-Jordan Industry Company (SJIC) will hold its annual meeting in Amman next month to discuss and endorse the 1988 general budget and the final accounts and to discuss a number of other matters on its agenda.

The announcement was made here Wednesday at the conclusion of a three-day meeting by the company's board of directors who reviewed the 1988 budget and prepared an agenda for next month's meeting which will be co-chaired by the ministers of industry and trade in the countries.

According to the announcement, the board discussed amendments to a feasibility study on a pesticide project which will be set up in Syria through joint efforts.

The company started implementing the pesticide project in 1985, but amendments approved by the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee had to be introduced to help speed up the work on the project, the announcement said.

According to the announcement, the pesticide plant, which will benefit the Arab countries as a whole, was approved by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID).

Last October, a general financial meeting was held in Amman to raise funds for the project and to enlist support from various investment and financial organisations.

According to Ahmad Munir Al Hamash, SJIC board chairman, nearly 60 per cent of the plant's total production will be marketed in Jordan and Syria and the rest will be marketed in neighbouring Arab countries.

Hamash expected the projected plant to produce some 4,000 tonnes of pesticides annually. He said that the pesticides can be of use mainly in agriculture but will be of benefit for public health in eliminating insects and helping to safeguard public health.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 17, 1989 Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Swiss franc	308.2	311.9
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	81.6	82.4
Pound Sterling	578.6	587.5	Japanese yen (for 100)	390.6	394.8
Deutschmark	276.0	279.2	Dutch guilder	245.0	247.7
			Swedish crown	81.8	82.6
			Italian lira (for 100)	38.0	38.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	132.0	133.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6358/63	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1905/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.9435/42	Deutschemarks	
	2.1911/21	Dutch guilders	
	1.7400/10	Swiss francs	
	40.67/70	Belgian francs	
	6.5800/50	French francs	
	1415/1416	Italian lire	
	137.53/63	Japanese yen	
	6.5740/90	Swedish crowns	
	7.0250/0350	Norwegian crowns	
	7.5700/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	373.75/374.15	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Shares rallied as overseas buying returned due to the weakening Australian dollar. By 0515 GMT the All Ordinaries index was up 4.6 points at 1,561.9.

TOKYO — Share prices closed slightly firmer, turnover was light and trade narrow-based. The key 225-share Nikkei index firmed 66 points to 33,992.45.

HONG KONG — Prices of blue chips fell on news of more demonstrations in China. The Hang Seng index 43.09 points to 3,246.41.

SINGAPORE — The market ended generally lower but the Straits Times industrial index rose 6.54 points to 1,310.02 on gains in some index component stocks.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell in poor trading after Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd was shifted from the forward trading list to the spot delivery section.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mostly higher in a market which gained momentum after a slow start. The DAX index rose 5.89 points to 1,345.64.

ZURICH — Shares closed lower across the board and dealers said turnover was small on worries of possible interest rises. The all-share Swiss index fell 8.3 points to 1,003.9.

PARIS — French shares slipped below their opening levels in quiet trade amid growing expectations of higher European interest rates. The 50-share price indicator was 0.81 per cent down.

LONDON — Shares rose on news of a smaller than expected U.S. trade deficit but then fell. By 1434 GMT the FTSE index was 17.4 points up at 2154.1.

NEW YORK — Second thoughts about the lower than expected March trade gap ended a share rally. The Dow was off three points at 2451 after reaching 2460.

COMPLIMENTS EMBARRASS HIM - HE ALWAYS FEELS YOU HAVEN'T SAID ENOUGH



University students on a hunger-strike at Peking's Tiananmen Square.

One million march in Peking for democracy

BEIJING (AP) — More than one million people demanding democracy and supporting student hunger strikers marched triumphantly through Beijing streets Wednesday in the biggest protest in communist China's 40-year history.

The march began in Tiananmen Square to the peal of firecrackers set off under the huge poster of Mao Tse-tung above the entrance to the former Imperial Palace. Fifty taxis crammed with flag-waving passengers led an estimated procession of workers, journalists, government employees and even soldiers.

Smaller marches headed north and west from the square, while more people streamed on bicycle and foot towards the square to join the marches. Most streets in the centre of this city of 10 million people were closed.

Police made no effort to intervene and few were seen on the

streets. "Chinese aren't stupid," said marching journalist Shen Yinghua. "You can suppress us for a long time, but when we blow, we spit fire."

The demonstration came just hours after student leaders rejected an appeal from Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang for an end to the fast in Tiananmen by more than 3,000 students, which has embarrassed the government during the historic visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

As pro-democracy protesters massed Wednesday morning in Tiananmen, the symbolic centre of power in China, Gorbachev

met with academicians in the adjacent Great Hall of the People. However, the protests forced him to cancel a visit to the Imperial Palace, the latest in a series of schedule changes forced by the protests.

"All these rallies made us nervous," Gorbachev said in an interview broadcast by China central television. But he said the work of his visit was going well.

Similar demonstrations grew in size Wednesday in Shanghai, where Gorbachev is scheduled to fly Thursday. At least 70 student hunger-strikers lay in front of the Shanghai city hall, while about 20,000 students and supporters gathered around to chant for the resignation of Shanghai Mayor Jiang Zemin.

A U.S. witness said the Shanghai protest began Tuesday and grew throughout Wednesday. Police cordoned off the area and

tried to keep out non-students, but thousands of workers managed to join them.

The demonstrations Wednesday in Beijing were dominated for the first time by workers rather than students, who launched the pro-democracy, anti-corruption movement a month ago.

Labourers marched with banners naming their factories. At least 1,000 soldiers joined the protest, including some wearing yellow-and-green camouflage hats. Their banners identified them as from the general staff office, logistics department and political department.

Employees from at least five government ministries participated, as did 300 representatives from Capital Steel, marching under a banner that read: "Return us our freedom."

White House seeks to blunt Gorbachev arms initiatives

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Striving to blunt Mikhail Gorbachev's diplomatic offensive, the White House has expressed scepticism about Moscow's assurances it will stop sending arms to Nicaragua, calling them tactics of a "drugstore cowboy."

"We don't have any evidence that it (arms aid) has ceased and we have some evidence that it is still continuing," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday after confirming that the Kremlin had privately promised to end arms shipments to the leftist government in Managua.

President George Bush and congressional leaders have agreed to end military aid to contra rebels and rely instead on diplomacy to achieve a political settlement in Nicaragua.

While Washington has long urged the Soviet Union to show similar restraint, Fitzwater said U.S. officials were "very leery" of its intentions in Nicaragua as well as its other recent arms proposals.

Gorbachev, who last Friday announced plans to remove 500 nuclear warheads from Western Europe, was "throwing out in a kind of drugstore cowboy fashion one arms control proposal after another," Fitzwater said, using a colloquial American expression to describe a phoney.

"Since military shipments can easily be delivered through third countries, in order to disguise their true origin, the true test of Soviet intentions will be whether any Soviet declines are compen-

sated for with increased shipments from other countries such as Cuba," he said.

Senator Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Latin American Affairs, said it would be "an extremely important breakthrough" if Gorbachev was in fact ending military aid to Nicaragua.

"And that ought to be treated seriously and not treated as if it were humour," Dodd said.

House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright said, "it's high time that the Soviet Union does stop supplying military support to Nicaragua."

"It has to come," Wright said as he left a White House meeting with Bush on the budget. "If we're really to demilitarise the zone we really do need to get foreign interests out of there."

The promised cutoff in Soviet aid put new pressure on the Bush administration to counter a string of arms control proposals by Gorbachev, the most recent of which calls for the removal of 500 short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

Soviet offers have inflamed tensions within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) over short-range nuclear weapons in Europe. Backed by other members of the Western alliance, West Germany has called for East-West negotiations soon on reducing the weapons.

However, the United States, supported largely by Britain, has adamantly opposed such negotia-

tions on grounds that nuclear weapons are needed to offset an advantage in conventional forces enjoyed by the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

With the dispute threatening to mar the unity of a NATO summit May 29-30, Fitzwater said Bonn, and Washington have not been able to reach an agreement.

Soviet pullout

Tanks and troops from one of the Soviet Union's best fighting units headed for home Wednesday under a programme of wide-ranging military cutbacks announced by Gorbachev.

Some 100 young Soviet conscripts whooped and waved as their train, loaded with 20 T-64 tanks, made a ceremonial departure from Jüterbog station south of Berlin and headed for Kiev.

General Boris Smetkov, head of the 380,000-strong group of Soviet forces in Germany (GSFG), was among top officers who watched the last remnants of the 288th tank regiment head for Soviet soil.

More troops and tanks were due to leave for the Soviet Union Thursday.

The regiment, part of the elite 32nd guards tank division, belonged to one of the five tank armies in the GSFG, Moscow's largest military contingent abroad and considered by NATO to be the Warsaw Pact's top fighting force.

COLUMN

Parliament to go live on TV

LONDON (R) — Britons will soon be able to fit faces to the barnyard cacophony emanating from parliament — the House of Commons is going live on television. An all-party committee of legislators urged Wednesday that television broadcasting should start in November to complement existing radio coverage. Their recommendation was accepted by leader of the house John Wakeham, the government's business manager in the Commons, with an appeal to members to behave themselves. "We are hoping that the house will not be over-conscious of the cameras and will conduct its business in a proper fashion," he said. Legislators voted last year to set a timetable for experimental television coverage after resisting the move for three decades. Critics feared some members of parliament (MPs) might be tempted to play to the cameras and sully the dignity of the proceedings. But the din heard on radio during confrontations between government and opposition already shocks many listeners.

'Girls write better than boys'

ALBANY (AP) — Girls write better than boys, not because of any genetic differences but because they get more encouragement to develop those skills, researchers say. Writing samples from 43,563 students on five continents indicate girls are better at expressing their ideas on paper, said the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, which analysed the writing. The association, based in Stockholm, is a network of research institutions in nearly 40 countries. The study was released Friday. Alan Purves, director of the New York State University at Albany's Centre for Writing and Literacy, said the differences in the five-year, 14-nation study have to do with how the two sexes are taught. "Sexual stereotypes are very strong in the classroom," Purves said. Girls in most societies get more encouragement to develop their writing, just as boys are more often encouraged to excel in math and science, Purves said. "Girls are encouraged to do more literary things at home," he said. The study also noted that most high school language teachers are women, and Purves said youngsters are more likely to emulate a teacher of the same sex.

Embassy is a family affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ambassador McDonald Benjamin's pinstripe pants are wearing a little thin these days. He will miss his prime minister's arrival from Dominica this weekend because he'll be flying to Rome, where he doubles as ambassador to Italy. Not to worry, says Benjamin, puffing contentedly on his pipe. He will leave the welcoming ceremonies to the capable hands of his local embassy staff — his wife, Angela, and their 25-year-old son, McDonald Junior. Benjamin is the Washington diplomatic representative of the 86,000 people of Dominica, a mountainous, lushly forested island nestled between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique in the eastern Caribbean. His embassy, the smallest in Washington, occupies the Benjamin's eighth-floor apartment in a high-rise condominium overlooking suburban Alexandria, Virginia. The embassy's only official decoration is the Dominica national flag, mounted on a two-metre pole in the foyer. Dominica is too poor to furnish Benjamin with a chauffeur-driven limousine, so he drives to his diplomatic appointments in the family's 1987 Plymouth sedan.

Tokyo prosecutors question politicians

TOKYO (AP) — Prosecutors Wednesday questioned elected officials for the first time on their roles in the Recruit influence-peddling scandal that has caused a rash of resignations and damaged public confidence in Japanese politics.

The list of disgraced party leaders also grew Wednesday as the chairman of Komeito, the Clean Government Party, said he would resign. Junya Yano is the third party head to announce his resignation because of the scandal, following Prime Minister Norobu Takeshita as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Saburo Tsukamoto as head of the Democratic Socialist Party.

Takeshita remains in office while the Liberal Democrats continue a so far fruitless search for a new party leader and prime minister who would be both respected and free of the scandal links that have decimated the top ranks of politicians in Japan.

Takako Doi, head of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, said the disruption in Komeito was disappointing at a time when she is trying to hold together an opposition coalition to oust the Liberal Democrats.

"I hope Komeito will go ahead and unite with the Socialists, overcoming the latest trials," Doi said.

Two members of parliament, including a key deputy to former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, were summoned Wednesday for questioning. Prosecutors

said they were suspected of accepting bribes in return for helping the Recruit Company. In its business of employment information.

Takao Fujinami, 56, who served as chief cabinet secretary for three years under Nakasone, was ordered to one prosecutor's office, and Komeito legislator Katsuya Ikeda, 51, was called to another office.

By Japanese legal custom, the summoning was equivalent to arrest, but since parliament is in session, the prosecutors could not jail the two lawmakers without permission of the parliament.

Fujinami plans to resign his seat in the House of Representatives, Kyodo News Service reported.

Ikeda announced Tuesday he would resign his Parliament seat to atone for "causing troubles" to his Buddhist-affiliated party, which is almost as deeply troubled by the Recruit scandal as LDP.

Komeito leaders held an emergency meeting after the long-expected summoning of the two diet members. Komeito Chairman Yano later told reporters that he believed Ikeda's statement that he was innocent of wrongdoing.

But the Komeito chairman said public trust in the party had been impaired. "I apologise from my heart and, taking this situation seriously and realising my own responsibility, I resign the chairmanship," Yano said.

Belgrade to choose Suvar's successor

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's Communist Party leaders convened Wednesday to choose a successor to party chief Stipe Suvar and to discuss recent unrest in the ethnic Albanian-populated province of Kosovo.

Party officials said Suvar, a Croat who moved this week into Yugoslavia's state presidency, would give up the leadership at the party Central Committee meeting in Belgrade because a politician must not simultaneously hold a party and state job.

The party's 23-man ruling Politburo was obliged to select one of two Macedonian members of the Politburo as the new leader under the principle by which the job rotates annually between Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces.

The Macedonian candidates were Vasil Tupurkovski and Milan Pancevski. Both supported the Serbian republic's successful drive to regain control of Kosovo, a province with an ethnic Albanian majority which previously enjoyed broad autonomy.

The campaign culminated in March in the deaths of 24 people in clashes between police and ethnic Albanians enraged at their loss of self-rule. It also disturbed some republics which fear that Serbia plans to impose its control over all Yugoslavia.

A pro-Serbian Politburo member from the republic of Montenegro, Perko Vukotic, told the Central Committee that Albanian nationalists were still capable of

stirring unrest despite the imposition of emergency rule in Kosovo.

"An organised attack took place in Kosovo in March aimed at provoking an armed conflict and bloodshed and at jeopardising the constitutional order of the country," he said. "The possibility of new organised demonstrations cannot be excluded."

The Macedonian leaders supported Serbia mainly because their republic, which is wedged between Bulgaria and Albania, contains an Albanian minority which has also shown signs of restlessness. About 400,000 of Macedonia's two million people are Albanians.

Serbia's campaign angered Yugoslavia's two most developed republics, Slovenia and Croatia, which have accused Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic of trying to disrupt the delicate power balance between the country's different nationalities.

All Slovenian Central Committee members voted against a Serbian-inspired move last month to confer emergency status on a party congress next December. They fear Serbia will use the congress to prepare a crackdown on liberal trends in Slovenia.

All top party posts will come up for re-election at the congress, the party's most important meeting since 1986, meaning that Macedonia may occupy the party leadership for less than the one year to which it would normally be entitled.

Women hold key to population control

LONDON (AP) — Unless women win more access to family planning, education and employment, the world's population could almost triple to 14 billion by the year 2100, a U.N. agency warned Tuesday.

But too many women remain trapped because of fundamentalist religions which "keep women in bondage" and cultural values that put men first, said Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund, in launching the 1989 State of World Population Report.

Appealing for a five-fold increase in world spending on family planning, the report said: "the status of women will be crucial in determining future population growth rates."

Half the world's women still have no access to family planning services — mostly women living in traditional male-dominated societies or areas remote from family planning

services, Sadik said.

"Yet, this is precisely the audience we must reach if we are to have further success in our mostly 'she said."

She said world population, now 5.2 billion, "is at a critical juncture." Likely to increase by over 90 million a year until the end of the century and stabilise at 10 billion about a century from now.

This optimistic projection assumes that fertility in the developing world will drop by one-third in the next 40 years, the report said.

About 435 million women in the developing world, or 45 per cent, use contraceptives — 14 per cent in Africa, 50 per cent in Asia, and 56 per cent in Latin America, the report said.

It said that without China's extensive birth control programme, the overall use of contraceptives in the developing world would drop to about 30 per cent.

To attain the desired drop in fertility, 58 per cent of women will have to be using family planning in 2000 and 71 per cent — the present level in industrialised countries — by 2025, it said. In sub-Saharan Africa, those using family planning would have to increase ten-fold.

"But this will not happen unless more of the world's women are given more health care, family planning services, education, and employment opportunities," Sadik said.

"We now have clear-cut, concrete evidence linkage between female education, fertility and mortality, between gainful employment for women and patterns of family formation, and between women's participation and the success of population programmes and economic development," she said.

Thirty-one countries in the developing world still have vir-

tually no family planning facilities, the report said, and 37 of the poorest countries have cut health spending by 50 per cent and education by 25 per cent in the last four years.

If the family planners failed, the world would have 14 billion people 2100, which "would create enormous potential for violence and social upheaval," she said.

The Pakistani physician called on societies to end legal and social discrimination against women, increase their access to leadership positions, and teach at all levels "that women and men are equal in value."

Asked at a news conference whether religious fundamentalism was hampering women and family planning, she replied: "All these movements seem to be designed to somehow keep women in bondage."

She accused religious leaders of being on "a power-ego thing... They're reinforcing their authority."

'World spent \$34 billion on arms in 1988'

STOCKHOLM (R) — The global trade in conventional weapons amounted to just under \$34 billion last year, down 5.5 billion from 1987's record level, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.

SIPRI, the world authority on the international arms trade, said in its 1989 yearbook published Wednesday that it had recorded sales in 1988 of \$33.97 billion. The 1988 total represented a drop from the record 1987 figure of \$39.5 billion.

It also showed a long-term decline in Third World arms imports from 68 per cent of all sales in 1984 to 61 per cent last year.

"The overall size of the global arms trade market has remained stable in the 1980s but has stabil-

ised at a high level," the report said.

Improvements in superpower relations did not appear to have had any effect on their arms trade policies with client states, it said.

But SIPRI said the United States, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Soviet Union had all cut their defence spending last year.

"The world may be experiencing a technical and economic structural change that is forcing reductions in military budgets. But it is difficult to predict whether this will be a long-term trend."

SIPRI said the Soviet Union was the largest supplier of conventional weapons — accounting

for 38 per cent of all arms sales. The United States is second at 28 per cent.

It said both superpowers were locked into stable relationships with a relatively small number of clients and maintained sales for political and strategic reasons rather than economic ones.

China overtook France last year to become the world's third biggest arms exporter with 90 per cent of its exports going to Arab World and Pakistan. Britain remained in fifth place.

Over 65 per cent of all arms exports over the past five years went to six countries — Egypt, India, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Syria — with India topping the list.

SIPRI said one key factor inhibiting arms spending was the prohibitive cost of weapons development and the speed with which modern weapons became obsolete.

But Japan's military spending was growing and looked likely to increase further. "If the yen maintains its position, Japan may soon rank third in world in military spending in dollar terms," the report said.

SIPRI, which is funded by the Swedish government, says it runs the world's most comprehensive independent computer data base on the international arms trade.

It does not claim to record all arms sales since some are kept secret but says its figures provide a reliable guide to global trends.

U.S. Senate clears way for Japan FSX deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Senate, after an emotional debate, has cleared the way for the United States and Japan to jointly manufacture the FSX fighter jet, giving the White House a major foreign policy victory.

The administration of President George Bush lobbied hard for the deal but today's 52-47 vote against a resolution to limit it put across party lines. Negative votes would have been required in both the Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to quash the deal.

Senate opponents vociferously argued the United States had to send a message to Tokyo that Washington would no longer

tolerate restrictive trade practices and a \$55 billion U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

They insisted Japan should buy U.S. F-16 jets instead of developing its own fighter partly with F-16 technology.

If Japan refused, they said, the United States should retaliate against Japanese goods.

"There's a lot of anger out there," said Senator Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat.

The Senate followed up its vote by approving by 72-27 an amendment proposed by Byrd designed to protect U.S. technology, monitor implementation of the accord and state congress's belief that the United States should get at least a 40 per cent share of the

plane's production.

The administration opposed the amendment.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger made it known immediately before the vote that the administration regarded the new directives as unnecessary and likely to trigger new and lengthy negotiations.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas dubbed it a "killer amendment" that would require the reopening of negotiations with the Japanese government.

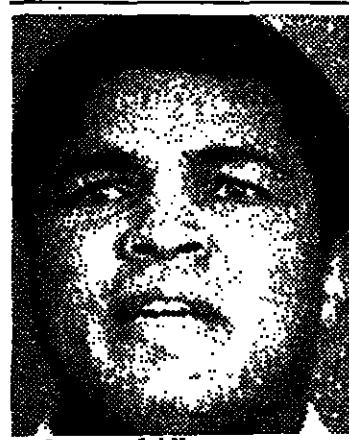
Byrd said the amendment "will not torpedo" the deal but will provide necessary protection for the United States.

Roman Popadiuk, a Bush

administration spokesman, noted the White House had made the senate aware of its objections to the Byrd amendment in advance of the vote and said there would be no further comment until its language was carefully considered.

Eagleburger, in a letter circulated before the Senate action, said additional restrictions imposed by congress would "inhibit rather than facilitate" the FSX programme.

He said the terms of the arrangements with Japan were already consistent with the content of the amendment and do protect U.S. "security, economic and technological strengths and interests."



Mohammad Ali

Ali testifies in trial of doctor

GENEVA (AP) — Mohammad Ali, looking weak but saying he feels good, testified Tuesday on behalf of a doctor he credits with improving his life.

The former heavyweight champion has been diagnosed as suffering from Parkinson disease, a condition marked by slurred speech, weakness and as stiff gait. At times, Ali could barely be heard as he testified in the trial of Dr. Rajko Medenica, a Yugoslav-born cancer specialist charged with fraud by Swiss authorities.

"He improved my physical condition," Ali said of the doctor, crediting Medenica with stopping the trembling in his hands.

Ali's third wife, Yolanda, 32, often spoke for him during their 10-minute courtroom appearance where they said Medenica was the first to improve Ali's condition.

"Mohammad had a low image of himself. After this treatment he was full of life," the former fighter's wife said.

Ali was alert and in good spirits at a news conference, joking with reporters despite partly slurred speech and the stare associated with the condition.

Asked how he felt, he answered: "Good. I never felt better."

"I talk when I feel like it," he said, adding that his speech has improved in the past few years. But when a reporter recalled he was once considered "the greatest," Ali said: "Used to be."

Despite the Parkinsons diagnosis, Mrs. Ali said Medenica found evidence of pesticide poisoning and used a treatment which includes the drug interferon, which he employs in his cancer therapy, and a regenerative process known as blood cleaning.

The Geneva trial, which opened April 17, is being held without Medenica after a United States district court judge ruled that the doctor's American patients depend on him and withdrew his passport. Medenica conducts a practice in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Medenica, 49, is accused of writing \$2.6 million in fake bills while treating patients, including many Yugoslavs, at a state hospital in Geneva in 1973-81.

In the same case, a Yugoslav court sentenced Medenica to 20 years in prison in 1983 for defrauding the state social security system.

Medenica was released after 15 months of Swiss investigative custody in 1984 when former South Carolina Governor John West helped raise much of a \$300,000 bond.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	08	48	18	Cloudy
ATHENS	16	61	28	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	75	38	Clear
BANGKOK	28	79	35	Clear
Buenos Aires	06	42	18	Clear
Cairo	07	45	22	Clear
CHICAGO	20	68	36	Clear
COPENHAGEN	10	50	22	Clear
FRANKFURT	07	45	22	Clear
GENEVA	05	41	20	Clear
HONG KONG	25	77	27	Clear
JAKARTA	18	61	28	Clear
LONDON	14	57	22	Clear
LOS ANGELES	12	54	22	Clear
MADRID	11	52	25	Clear
MECCA	27	81	43	Cloudy
MIAMI	22	72	29	Clear
MOSCOW	10	50	26	Clear
MUMBAI	06	43	18	Clear
NEW DELHI	24	76	22	Clear
NEW YORK	13	55	15	Clear
PARIS	12	54	23	Cloudy
ROME	09	48	21	Clear
SEOUL	18	64	21	Clear
VIENNA	12	54	22	Clear